



Years Rich & Fruitful

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO
1896-1996



Years Rich & Fruitful



"A great institution is born of its time." So begins Lucille Griffith's history, *Alabama College, 1896-1969*. Education in the 1890s, particularly for women, was woefully inadequate, and there was great need for a school for them — especially a school that would provide them means to earn a living. The legislature established, therefore, the Alabama Girls Industrial School in Montevallo to train young women in "suitable" professions — dressmaking, millinery, typewriting, music, and the like. The founders, and particularly the first faculty, wisely insisted that these students should also receive a strong liberal arts education, and they did. From the beginning, the "industrials," as they were called, were enriched by courses in the traditional humanities — English, history, mathematics, the sciences, foreign language.

This is Montevallo's heritage. Throughout its 100-year existence, it has established programs, often pioneering them, in response to the needs of the state and its students, never losing sight of the importance of the liberal arts.

The photographs here picture the development from industrial school to Alabama College to the University of Montevallo. Most of the changes were gradual and all were carefully planned, even the most profound, coeducation. These are highlights celebrating the centennial of the Montevallo that was — and is. They have been years, as the school's Alma Mater proclaims, "rich and fruitful."

PHOTO OF MAIN HALL:
Andy Russell

PHOTOS OF MS. TIPTON AND THE CENTENNIAL

COMMITTEE: Matthew Orton

Years Rich & Fruitful:

UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO 1896-1996

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Mary Frances Tipton

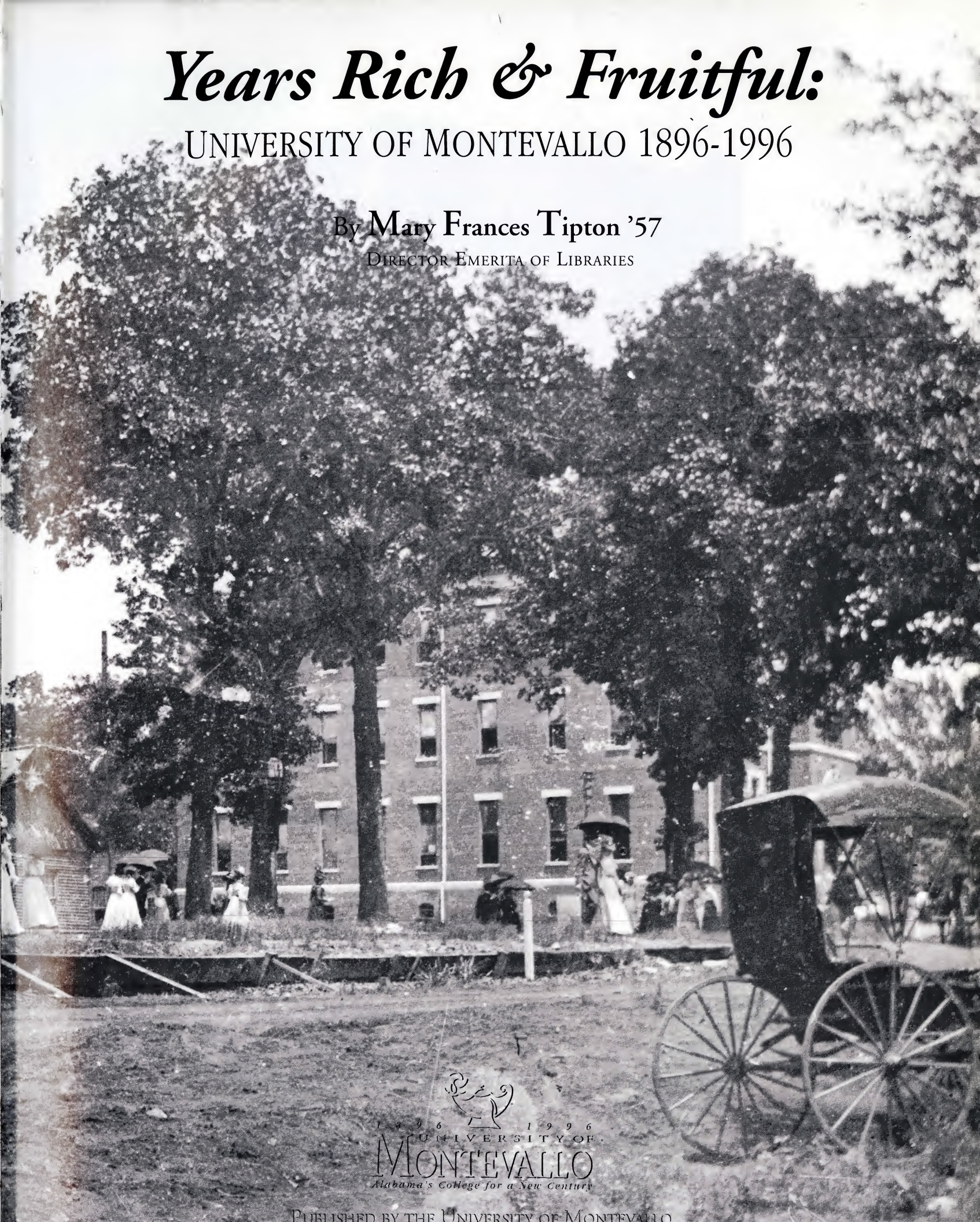


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UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO 1896-1996

By **Mary Frances Tipton '57**

DIRECTOR EMERITA OF LIBRARIES



PUBLISHED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTEVALLO



Montevallo could be easily reached by train in the early days. The catalog informed readers that "pupils living in the southwestern portion of the State desiring to come to Montevallo, can come up the Mobile and Birmingham Road to Selma, and thence to Montevallo which is only fifty-five miles north of Selma. Those living in the southeastern portion may come to Montgomery, thence to Calera and there take the Southern Railway and come to Montevallo, which is only seven miles southeast of Calera. Those desiring to come from the northeastern portion of the State can take the Southern Railway and come direct to town. If on the Alabama Great Southern Railroad, come to Birmingham and there take the Southern, which comes direct to Montevallo." If you were one of those lucky girls who came from Camden, Trustee Sol Bloch probably looked after you and treated you to candy on the trip.

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ISBN 0-9625875-0-8

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

When actress and alumna Polly Holliday spoke at the luncheon honoring her as Montevallo's distinguished alumna in 1983, she explained why we have to listen to endless strings of names of people being thanked at Oscar ceremonies: After years of hard work, you want to thank everybody who ever helped you. It can't be done. In my case scores of people contributed to this book — faculty, alumni, staff — both past and present.

My gratitude extends to David Aiken, vice president for university advancement, and Mary Lou Williams, director of development and alumni relations, who persuaded me to take on this project; special thanks to David, whose calling me “young lady” every morning made me think I wasn't too brain-dead and ancient to do it. His secretary Lois Fuller more than proved her mettle by deciphering my poor handwriting.

Almost no photographers have been identified in this book, because there was no way to tell who they were. Some were undoubtedly the university's professional photographers — Andy Russell, Keith Harrelson, Matt Orton, or their predecessors. A great many — and to these go my deepest thanks — were those students on the staffs of the *Montage*, *Technala*, and *Chiaroscuro*.

There were thousands of photographs to go through, and I had some fine help in doing that from the centennial history volunteers. The decisions of which pic-

(Opposite) Kirker-Bender fire escapes on Main Hall have enthralled students since they were installed in 1909. Never used for any actual fires, they have provided thrill rides and quick exits to classes.



"... scores of people contributed to this book — faculty, alumni, staff — both past and present."

tures to use were difficult ones, and I regret we could not use more. Alumni were helpful in a variety of ways, sometimes by telling me anecdotes of their days at Montevallo, sometimes by helping me to put names to faces.

A variety of published and unpublished sources were used — *Alabamians*, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, yearbooks; some little-known treasures are the papers written for special projects: theses by Barbara Patterson (theatre) and Larry Smith (radio), a dissertation by Prince Dorrough (music), a paper by Jeanette Crew and her colleagues (physical education), and a manuscript by members of the English Department (I am particularly grateful to them for permission to use the material on President Caldwell and Robert Payne). Departments on campus gave me information and allowed us to use photographs in their possession. People went beyond anything I expected: Bob Riesener, assisted by Leon Davis, made extensive notes on the athletic program; and Bill Fancher wrote a paper covering 30 years of development in the College of Education.

I would like to thank *The Shelby County Reporter* (and especially its publisher Kim Price) for playing such a crucial role as a partner in the publication of this centennial history.

This book would not have been possible without public relations staffer Rob Collins, who edited the copy and tried to teach me current rules of punctuation. My deepest gratitude goes to Libbie Rodgers and her discerning eye for giving the manuscript one last look. The talents of Cynthia Shackelford, director of public relations, for her eye for photographs, her encouragement, her energy, and imagination are responsible for whatever is good about this book.

No acknowledgment would be complete without an expression of appreciation to Dr. Lucille Griffith — through the years my teacher, colleague, and friend. Her books, *Alabama College, 1896-1969* and *White Columns and Red Bricks*, have been sources of inestimable value.

— Mary Frances Tipton

(Opposite) "The uniform dress is a navy blue Henrietta or Serge. There being so many shades of this goods, it is especially desired that the goods should be purchased here, and made in the dressmaking department at a cost of \$1.50. The uniform hat is the Oxford cap, made of the dress material, trimmed with black cord tassel." Uniforms were worn at all public functions until 1917, when it became difficult to come by supplies.





Dr. Robert McChesney

FOREWORD

**By Dr. Robert M. McChesney
President, University of Montevallo**

One hundred years ago, little did the individuals responsible for the Alabama Girls Industrial School realize that their efforts would result in such a venerable institution. Indeed, they probably wondered whether their fledgling school would survive from year to year and fulfill the vision they shared for its future.

Alabama Girls Industrial School did, in fact, survive and flourish to become the University of Montevallo, an institution revered by thousands across the United States. At the centennial of the University, we have the opportunity and obligation to look back at the commitment, dedication, ingenuity and plain hard work that our forebears invested in the concept of a liberal arts education coupled with practical skills. That concept is as deeply entrenched in the University today as it was in 1896.

Montevallo is a novel institution: a public liberal arts college. Those of us privileged to serve the University work to advance the commitment of its founders. We remain committed to the education of young people across disciplinary lines, to produce educated citizens prepared to be involved in the world as informed, active, responsible participants.

Years Rich & Fruitful chronicles the history of the University from its modest beginning to its present status as an institution of higher education respected within and without Alabama for the quality of its graduates. Surely, Julia Tutwiler, Henry Reynolds, Solomon Bloch and others would share our pride in our 22,000 alumni.

We are deeply indebted to Mary Frances Tipton and to the many volunteers who collaborated to produce this volume. Those serving the University in 2096, at the end of its second century of service, may well trace their institutional lineage, and plot their direction, from the sound foundation recorded in this book.

To review our history and to understand our uniqueness is the beginning. Moving into our second century with zeal, determination, commitment, and vision equal to that of our predecessors is our challenge. With full confidence in our charge and direction, the University of Montevallo will continue to be a cherished partner in the lives of future Alabamians.

Hail, Montevallo!



King House has been known by a variety of names — The Mansion House, Kingswood, and Nabors Hall. It was one of the first houses in this part of Alabama, one of the earliest brick houses in the state, and one of the few at the time with glass windows. It was built in 1823 by an early Montevallo settler, Edmund King, using slave labor. The handmade bricks were improperly fired and began to deteriorate in stormy weather so the outer walls were faced with stucco (to which cow hair had been added for durability). This photograph was taken in 1908 or thereabouts, when the school bought the house and surrounding acreage — including the family cemetery nearby. Legend has it that old Mr. King still walks about the house, looking for the money he hid from advancing Yankees. Over the years, the house has been used for a variety of purposes: as an infirmary, as a practice home for home economics students, and for offices and classrooms. Since its restoration in the 1970s, it has been a guest house for visitors and a center for entertainment.



CHAPTER 1

Alabama Girls Industrial School

1896-1911

Girls Industrial School of Alabama

A business education furnished young women free of cost except living expenses. This school will open at Montevallo, Alabama, on the 12th of October. A faculty representing the best talent in the South is now being selected. Professions taught which will make girls independent. We make teachers, artists, musicians, stenographers, typewriters, telegraphers, bookkeepers, dress-makers, and milliners. Other industrial branches will be added. A complete literary course will be added also. Total expenses for the entire session \$80. This includes tuition in all its branches, board, lights and fuel, laundry and medical bills and all ordinary text books used in the school. No incidentals, except a small fee for use of pianos to pupils taking instrumental music. Only \$15 required to enter; balance monthly.

Each county in the state is entitled to its quota of scholars between the ages of fourteen and twenty-one at the above named rates. They must be in good health and have fair primary education. Pupils in the different counties desiring the benefits of this school should make immediate application. Prospectus furnished on application.

H.C. Reynolds, Acting President

This short, simple statement appeared in newspapers throughout Alabama in 1896, but the task of getting it there was far from short, and far from simple.

(Opposite) Students of Alabama Girls Industrial School gather on the balconies and in front of Reynolds Hall around 1900. The west wing of Main Hall is visible in the background.



Julia Strudwick Tutwiler was selected to be first president of the new school, but declined because of prior commitments at Livingston Normal School, and her belief that the \$15,000 appropriation from the Legislature was inadequate. She was right, but the school managed to struggle on. She stayed at Livingston until her retirement in 1910. A tireless advocate for education and prison reform, she was responsible for many of the advances in education for women in Alabama.

It had its beginnings years earlier with the dream of Julia Tutwiler and her ambitions for the women of Alabama. A native of Alabama, Miss Tutwiler studied at various colleges in the East and for three years in Germany, where she observed vocational training for the first time. She came home determined to see that it was available for the young women of her state. Women were admitted to the state normal schools, and in 1890 — at her insistence — to the University of Alabama, but the majority were poorly educated; there were few public schools, and women were relegated to menial jobs if they were not supported by family.

At about the same time, a well-to-do businessman, newspaperman, and candidate for state Senate was making calls on constituents in rural Wilcox County near Camden. His name was Solomon D. Bloch, and he stopped to spend the night at a farm house, the home of an elderly man whose large family of daughters labored beside him in the fields. The girls' father could not hope for a better life for them. Mr. Bloch was moved by the thought of such bleak futures for these girls and others like them. The solution, he determined, was to establish a state-supported school to train young women in what were considered "suitable" vocations — office work, dressmaking, music, and art.

Both of these concerned people, independently of each other, worked to give reality to their ideals: Miss Tutwiler by exhortations to fellow educators, and Mr. Bloch by the introduction of the bill establishing the Alabama Girls Industrial School.

In 1893, Mr. Bloch's bill was passed on the last day of the session. In his words,

The bill at first met with considerable opposition because of the then novel idea of establishing a school that would educate the girls of Alabama in studies that would enable them to earn their livelihood if they should find it necessary to do this. On the last day of the session, February 21, 1893, the measure had passed both houses, and as the time was urgent, and the bill by this time had become so popular, I was appointed a special messenger to carry the bill to Governor Thomas G. Jones for his signature.

For the next three years, there was much competition for the location of the new school. Fourteen towns sent delegates to the Board of Trustees' meeting in 1895, from which number the Board selected seven — Jasper, Tuscaloosa, Huntsville, Anniston, Camden, Wetumpka, and Montevallo. Montevallo won by one vote.

It is not easy to understand why this small town should win out over such metropolises (comparatively speaking) as Tuscaloosa or Huntsville, or over Mr. Bloch's home town of Camden. All of the towns offered incentives of property or

existing buildings. Montevallo had only one permanent school building to offer — what is now Reynolds Hall — some temporary wooden buildings, some potentially profitable coal lands, a year's supply of fine Montevallo coal, and \$9,000. In less concrete terms, the location could offer good train service, clean water, and "a quiet and reposeful village entirely free from all temptations and distractions which so often withdraw the minds of the pupils from their studies," as a contemporary newspaper noted.

Miss Tutwiler was asked to be president. She agreed, but was of the opinion that the \$15,000 annual legislative appropriation was inadequate. The Board believed that the school should be opened as soon as possible — delay might be hazardous. It was decided that October 1896 would see the beginning of the Industrial School. Miss Tutwiler had obligated herself to Livingston Normal School where she had been principal since 1888, and, to the disappointment of many people, she resigned the presidency of the Alabama Girls Industrial School to remain at Livingston.

On September 18, 1896, the Board elected as president Captain Henry Clay Reynolds, one of the Montevallo businessmen instrumental in securing the school. In less than a month the building was readied, and advertisements for students were placed in newspapers throughout the state.

In a remarkably short period of time, the Board named faculty; significantly, the first appointment was not one of the "industrials," but one to fill the chair of English and history. The school, therefore, embarked on what was to become a sound foundation of liberal arts.

The woman named to this position was Anne Kennedy of Centreville. Though she had no formal degree, she had studied at Harvard, the University of Virginia, and after teaching a number of years, the University of Chicago. She became one of the principal influences on the establishment and direction of the new school. Dr. Thomas Waverly Palmer, who was president at the time of her death in 1918, said her influence had "probably been more indelibly impressed upon the early life of the school than that of any other teacher."

Other teachers appointed to that first faculty were Eliza-



Solomon D. Bloch

Solomon David Bloch, senator from Wilcox County, introduced the bill establishing the Alabama Girls Industrial School, which was passed on the last day of the legislative session, February 21, 1893. Mr. Bloch, who served on the Board of Trustees from its beginning until shortly before his death in 1924, took an intense personal interest in the school and its students, visiting and sending flowers, turkeys, and other gifts for special occasions. For many years he was chairman of the Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees and, in that capacity, scrutinized all school expenditures and often commented on them. "One party was paid thirty cents for butter, another only twenty-five. You should investigate this matter thoroughly," one note said. Another complained about "sixty dozen turnips at twenty cents. You can buy all you want in Wilcox County for ten cents. Twenty cents is too much. Money should not be so extravagantly expended." But he loved the school and took great pride in it. That affection was returned by the students, who called themselves "chips off the old Bloch."



Henry Clay Reynolds, Civil War veteran and Montevallo businessman, was named president of the new school in 1896. In the three years he served, he persuaded Congress to donate to the Industrial School 25,000 acres of federal lands in Alabama, whose sales and leases over the years enabled the school to survive. During his tenure enrollment rose from less than 200 students to more than 400. Here he is shown seated, surrounded by the first faculty: Anne E. Kennedy, English and history; Elizabeth Haley, pedagogy; R.J.H. Simmons, mathematics and bookkeeping; Addie Lee and Edna Bush, music; Nellie Evans, scientific cooking; Gussie Nelson, dressmaking; Ella McCombs, art; Florence Hudson, telegraphy; and Mary C. Babb, "lady principal." A widower, Captain Reynolds married one of them, Gussie Nelson.

beth Haley, pedagogy; R.J.H. Simmons, mathematics and bookkeeping; Addie Lee and Edna Bush, music; Nellie Evans, scientific cooking; Gussie Nelson, dressmaking; and Ella McCombs, art.

Miss Kennedy and her colleagues, especially Miss Haley, who was a disciple of Miss Tutwiler, met in what must have been exhausting, but exhilarating, planning sessions to prepare for this new school, this daring new concept.

Miss Kennedy wrote a history of the school which was published after her death

in the school's 1921 annual. In her words:

[Miss Tutwiler's] ideals were far in advance of her time. Her perfect conception of this institution had so shaped and formed it before it came to life, had so set in operation the laws of its being, that it could never depart from them, could never be other than she willed. After it started, it was so new and strange, that it was not easy to understand and manage. Had it not been very vital by nature it surely would have died under the ignorant, blundering treatment it received.

What made this school "so new and strange"? It was not a college. It was, in effect, a state-supported high school for girls who were to be trained in an occupation while being given a good general education. There must have been some anxiety about the success of such an undertaking. Would students respond to it? Would the faculty — experts in their fields, but with few academic credentials — be effective teachers?

Surprisingly, with such little time for preparation, some 150 young women (accounts vary as to the actual number) were in Montevallo for the opening of school in October of 1896, and more enrolled throughout the first year.

Students had started coming to town several days before the official opening of the school. The *Shelby Sentinel* reported that "bevy of girls [had] arrived daily until by Sunday night, the little city was literally swarming with Alabama's fair and lovely daughters, many of them accompanied by their parents and guardians." The next morning, Monday, October 12, opening ceremonies began.

Hundreds of people were there, far outnumbering the students. Townspeople, parents, and citizens from nearby communities came by train, wagon, and buggy. Between 600 and 700 of them crowded into the chapel, in what is now the first floor of Reynolds Hall, and more than 300 stood outside. Luckily for them, "the

day was a perfect one," the *Shelby Sentinel* said, "beautiful beyond description, and Montevallo, noted for the beauty of its situation and the attractiveness of its surroundings, never appeared to better advantage."

At 10:30 that morning, the ceremonies began with Captain Reynolds presiding. With him were Alabama's governor, William C. Oates (in whose honor the platform was decorated with floral arrangements featuring sprays of oats); trustees Wadsworth, Plowman, Eager, McQueen; and several members of the Legislature. The speeches were preceded by music (the audience sang "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name" and Addie Lee, instructor of music, played a piano solo); the Reverend P.L. Abernethy, Montevallo Methodist minister, gave a welcoming address, which the *Shelby Sentinel* called "chaste, beautiful, and cordial." (Was this the beginning of a romance? Miss Lee and Mr. Abernethy were married a couple of years later.)

The speeches must have taken a considerable amount of time. Governor Oates, of course, was the main speaker. He congratulated Captain Rey-

The Governor and Board of Trustees in 1898 were Governor Joseph F. Johnston, the Reverend G.B. Eager, Judge H. Austill, the Honorable Sol Bloch, Judge A.H. Alston, the Honorable T.S. Plowman, the Honorable W.W. Wadsworth, the Honorable F.S. Moody, Colonel W.R. Dortch, the Honorable Virgil Bouldin, and the Honorable John McQueen. Streets in Montevallo were named for some of these men — Bloch, Moody, Wadsworth, and Plowman.



Reynolds Hall, called "The Chapel" until 1925, was built in 1851 for the Montevallo Male Institute (later, the Montevallo Male and Female Collegiate Institute, under the supervision of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church). It was in front of this building that local Confederate troops were mustered for the Civil War. Until Bloch Hall was built in 1915, this was the only permanent building for classes, offices, and assembly.



Boarding Houses

Until the dormitory was built, students were housed in private homes. Regulations were strict, and appointed monitors reported infractions, even of table manners. No correspondence with young men was allowed — and certainly no visits from them. To keep encounters with the town boys at a minimum, church attendance at night was forbidden. In the early years of A.G.I.S., students were expected to stay at school the whole year, even at Christmas. This rule prompted a letter dated December 15, 1899, from a concerned father in Clanton to the president:

Dear Sir,

I think it best for my daughter to come home for Christmas. She is young and first time she ever was away from home.

I don't think it will do her any good to stay there Christmas, as she wants to come so bad. She would be studying about home all the time and would not learn nothing. So I must insist on you to let her come home Christmas.

Hoping my request will be granted. Please answer at once.

No record of the president's reply has been found.



nolds on the wonders he had accomplished in a few short weeks and claimed Montevallo to be “as if nature had intended it for the seat of a great educational institution.” The establishment of the school, he said, was “the grandest enterprise the state had ever inaugurated.” Then each of the trustees made an “instructive and entertaining” speech, pointing out what a beneficial thing this new school proposed to do — to train the minds, hearts and hands of young women to fit them for practical duties. The last to speak was Captain Reynolds, who expressed his appreciation to the Governor and to the citizens of Montevallo whose help and hard work had enabled the school to open.

The afternoon was spent in work for the students, each of whom was interviewed by the president as to her family background, age, and schooling. He was assisted by Mary C. Babb, whose title was “lady principal.” She assisted the president in a number of ways and taught classes that ranged from orthography to psychology, but her main role appeared to be that of disciplinarian. In addition to keeping general decorum, she kept the study hall (often while teaching class on the platform) and gave demerits for talking, laughing, or failure to study. Mrs. Babb may not have held the affection the girls felt for some of their teachers, but she certainly held their respect.

Thus, school opened. There was some natural confusion as to classrooms, some of which were in unmarked rooms on the second floor of Reynolds, which at that time did not have the wings the building now has. There were two small frame buildings on school property which were used for classes, and several townspeople offered space in their homes. Home economics classes met in the home of Judge E.S. Lyman (now University property known as Saylor House), which was also one of the boarding houses for students.

There was no dormitory. Girls and teachers boarded with families living near the campus. Life was highly structured for these young women, many of whom were as young as fifteen, and away from home for the first time. And once they were away from home, they had to stay in Montevallo — no weekends at home, no Thanksgiving holidays, and only one day at Christmas. Parents were warned not to ask for visits from their daughters because trips home were “expensive and demoralizing,” interrupting school work; moreover, the girls might bring germs back with them.

Correspondence with young men was strictly forbidden. The days — begun with a general assembly or “chapel” — were filled with classes, with about an hour



“To prepare, cook, and serve food well is a fine art,” the first A.G.I.S. catalog said. Too often, these tasks were left to “raw and untrained servants.” Nellie Evans of Washington, D.C., was the first teacher of “scientific cooking.” Her students were taught basic food principles and for practical experience gave a luncheon, tea, or dinner each month. The early catalogs wisely admonished, “Many an unhappy home is due to the neglect of the orderly and cleanly housekeeping and good cooking that raises the housekeeper to the dignity of homemaker. Many a husband’s constitution has been ruined, and dyspepsia and other forms of indigestion have resulted from unwholesome food due to poor cooking.” Scientific cooking included much more than recipes (you can almost make out the directions for “Steamed Charlotte Pudding” on the board behind this class); instruction was given in buying and preparing cuts of meat, as well. By 1901 dressmaking, millinery, and cooking were combined into one department — Domestic Science.



(Top) "We make typewriters," the school first announced, but this photograph clears the confusion — later the term was "typists." In 1897, seven of the nine typing graduates of that first school year were holding good jobs.

(Right) Dressmaking has long been an honorable (and often low-paying) occupation for women, so it was naturally one of the first and most popular "industrials" offered at A.G.I.S. Although this photograph from 1897 does not show a student's uniform being made, this was where many were constructed — and altered after the wearer ate too much institutional food, a mystery that can be observed today. For the first few years the class was held in Judge E.S. Lyman's home on Boundary Street, quite close to the campus.



(Bottom) Classes in millinery could be profitable for the school. In the late 1890s, students were taught how to build and trim hats as well as the business end of marketing them. The hats were sold in President Reynolds' store, with orders coming from all parts of the state. In one year, total sales were about \$1,500.



in the late afternoon for recreation before supper, then study hours, then bed. Each student was expected to take required courses in English, history, mathematics, the sciences — and at least one of the “industrials.” Dressmaking was a particularly popular department; 125 girls were in sewing classes that first year, largely engaged, records indicate, in making uniforms for themselves and their fellow students. Music classes figured large, as well; there were four music teachers by the end of that first year, more than any other department. Somewhat surprisingly to the new faculty, there was a student demand for Latin — hardly what one would expect of incipient milliners or “typewriters.” Several of the teachers, Miss Kennedy being one, agreed to teach Latin after regular class hours.

President Reynolds was not an educator, but the new school became his life. His pride in the Alabama Girls Industrial School was evident as he traveled about the state, on the school’s business or his own. He always carried with him photographs of students and their classes, and pulled them out proudly at the slightest provocation. His fondness for his “children” was reciprocated. And throughout Alabama he was seen to be a miracle worker in getting the new school off to an encouraging start.

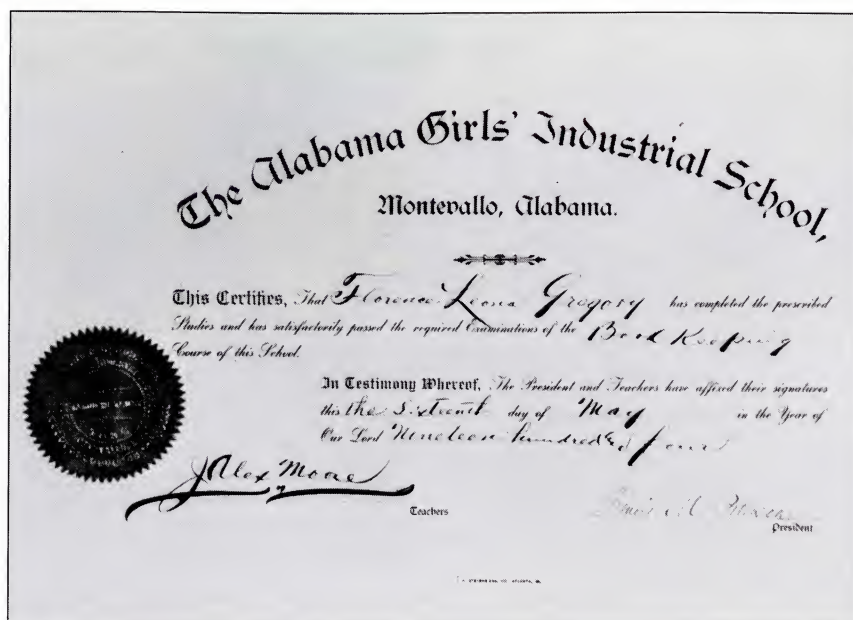
The most pressing problem was money, or the lack of it. (That \$15,000 legislative appropriation was indeed inadequate, as Miss Tutwiler had feared.) But Reynolds found a solution; he went to Washington and persuaded Congress to donate 25,000 acres of federal lands to the school. By the judicious sale and lease of these lands over the years, the school stayed solvent. It was reported some years later that income from the lands averaged \$21,000 a year.

The Alabama Girls Industrial School proved its worth in those early years. Graduates were finding employment, enrollment grew to more than 400 by 1899, a dormitory was being built, the classroom building was enlarged and great interest in the school was shown by visiting politicians, educators, businessmen, and reporters.

The school’s first commencement, which was held in late May of 1897, gave evidence of some of the accomplishments of the year. The *Shelby Sentinel* reported that “from the commencement sermon on the Sabbath to the closing exercises on Wednesday was demonstrated most forcibly the wonderful success that has

The West wing of Main Dormitory was begun almost as soon as school opened in 1896, and was ready for occupancy by the fall 1897 term. The Central wing was completed by 1905 and the East wing by 1908. At first there was no electricity, no central heat, and limited water — supplied up to the second floor, which housed the only bathroom. Water was cut off at night to keep girls from wasting it. (Conditions were no better in most homes.) Faculty, at least one on each hall, lived in the building as well.





College courses were not offered in the early years at A.G.I.S., but girls received certificates attesting to their proficiency in a particular field.



Art taken from 1909 *Chiaroscuro*

marked the career of this splendid institution during its first year.”

The sermon, by Dr. J.O. Keener of Greensboro, Alabama, was followed by a student choral group led by voice teacher Sallie Crumpton. The students, who numbered some 200 by this time, filed into the chapel wearing white dresses “of their own making,” a tradition observed for many decades. An “art levee” was held on Monday night, when 60 students under the direction of Ella McCombs exhibited 317 pictures — charcoal sketches, pencil studies, oils, crayons, pastels, and watercolors. The next day there was a concert and an address by Dr. George B.

Eager, a trustee and pastor of the First Baptist Church in Montgomery. The elocution class performed a pantomime of “Jesus Lover of My Soul,” directed by Anne Kennedy. Governor Joseph F. Johnston gave the commencement address on Wednesday, when fifteen students received certificates for proficiency — eleven in stenography and typewriting, three in art, and one in dressmaking. Throughout the week there were exhibits from the Dressmaking and Cooking Departments.

But President Reynolds lost his job. In a move that was partly political and partly fiscal, the Board voted in the spring of 1899 to elect another man president. There were serious questions about Mr. Reynolds’ handling of school funds. Montevallo had no bank at that time, the school no business manager, and most of the school finances were handled at Mr. Reynolds’ store. One of the problems was with student purchases in Montevallo, especially that of fabric for uniforms which were required for public functions such as church, lectures, concerts, and teas. To ensure consistency, for a time students were required to buy their uniform material from Captain Reynolds’ dry goods store. Other Montevallo merchants persuaded the Board of Trustees to override this requirement. Monies of various kinds, even laundry charges, were paid to Reynolds, and there must have been some difficulty in distinguishing between the school’s finances and the store’s business. Accusations and counter-accusations caused an uproar and even a precedent-setting lawsuit that was not settled until 1906. The Alabama Supreme Court ruled that “the A.G.I.S., being an agency of the state,” could not be sued, which Mr. Reynolds had attempted.

Dr. Francis Marion Peterson was the Board’s choice for Reynolds’ successor. He was an educator, a classical scholar who nevertheless learned the principles of an industrial education, largely by visits to similar schools. (The Board gave him

\$200 and a two-month vacation for these visits.) After the contretemps over finances in the Reynolds administration, Board members, largely in the person of Sol Bloch, kept a closer eye on school spending. A bookkeeper was hired, student fees were deposited in a bank, and purchase requisitions were instituted. Mr. Bloch scrutinized every account, often finding fault with prices paid.

When he became president, Dr. Peterson found the school to be in poor financial condition. There were debts, inadequate equipment, an unfinished dormitory, underpaid faculty — in short, a rather grim situation, were it not for the number of students clamoring for admittance.

The biggest money problem stemmed from the fact that the Legislature had never raised its annual appropriation of \$15,000. Dr. Peterson's solution was brilliant: Invite the entire Legislature to Thanksgiving dinner and show them what was being accomplished. A big day was planned; 80 members of both houses came by special train, which was met by students and townspeople with carriages, buggies, farm wagons, and hacks to carry them to the campus. There on that Thanksgiving Day in 1900, they were met in the chapel by Dr. Peterson, faculty, students, and a very special visitor, Julia Tutwiler. After a brief ceremony, the legislators were taken to classes in stenography, typewriting, physical culture, telegraphy, dress-making, millinery, art, music, and scientific cooking. (No English, history, or math classes that day.) On the heels of the class demonstrations came oratory — praise for womanhood, its rosy cheeks, its nimble fingers, its uplifting nature. This was followed by a Thanksgiving dinner of thirty-three baked turkeys.

Then back to the capital on the train. They must have had a grand time, because the very next day, the Senate raised the appropriation to \$100,000. House



(Top) Francis Marion Peterson was named president in 1899 and directed the continuing growth of the new school. A Methodist minister and acting president at Southern University in Greensboro at the time of his appointment, Peterson was a classical scholar who nevertheless used every opportunity to acquaint himself with the "industrial" nature of the school. He sought balance between professional and liberal arts education; he wanted the school "to prepare girls for entrance into the colleges, to fit them for teaching, to qualify those who are entering upon the industrial pursuits to read intelligently, to spell correctly, to understand sentence construction, and ground them in the elements of mathematics as well as give them knowledge of some industry whereby they may earn a living or bless a home."



(Left) Meals were taken in the dining hall that was located in the ground floor of Main Dormitory. It was family style with eight seated at each table. Food was served to a hostess at the head of the table by waitresses bearing trays laden with heavy white serving bowls and platters. It was in this dining hall that the first College Night was held on March 3, 1919. This photograph predates that event, however, as both gas and electric lights are present.



(Top) The school's first yearbook was published in 1907. It was called the *Chiaroscuro* until 1911 when the name was changed to the *Technala*. (It became the *Montage* in 1941.) The volumes comprise one of the most accessible — and entertaining — sources of Montevallo's history with photography, essays, and anecdotes. The early volumes, in particular, provided an outlet for students' creativity; they are full of stories, poems, and even what were undoubtedly class assignments. These are members of the senior class of 1907, who created the first yearbook. Editor-in-chief was Brice Miller; her staff, Bessie Gordon, Nealie Nettles, Mary McCord, Alberta Scruggs, Sara Dale, Nell Cleveland, Alma Robinson, and Ettie Mae Hatcher. Cora Allison was the "typewriter."



(Middle) Music has always been an important aspect of life at Montevallo, whether as part of instruction or entertainment. It was considered one of the "industries" a girl could take at A.G.I.S.; after all, music teaching was a suitable profession for women. Music education was pioneered in Alabama at this school. The girls pictured here are members of the Schumann Club, one of a number of clubs — literary, athletic, and just plain fun — on campus. They played for their own pleasure as well as for more formal occasions.

(Above) Student entertainment took a variety of forms, but national holidays such as Washington's birthday were particular favorites. There might be special meals, music, dramatic readings or tableaux, even a dance, such as "Ye Mazurka" in this photograph from a George Washington birthday celebration in 1911.



members must not have enjoyed themselves quite so much, as they cut the funds to \$65,000.

This influx of money meant a great deal: Debts were paid; teachers' salaries were increased from \$480 a year to \$750; the school year grew from eight to nine months; steam heat, lights, and running water were supplied to the dormitory, and the dormitory itself was enlarged. By 1908 the Central and East wings had been added to the West wing. Farm land was bought, classrooms were added to the chapel (Reynolds Hall) and the curriculum grew.

One significant addition to the curriculum was "physical culture," which was required of all students by 1906. The 1899-1900 catalog noted:

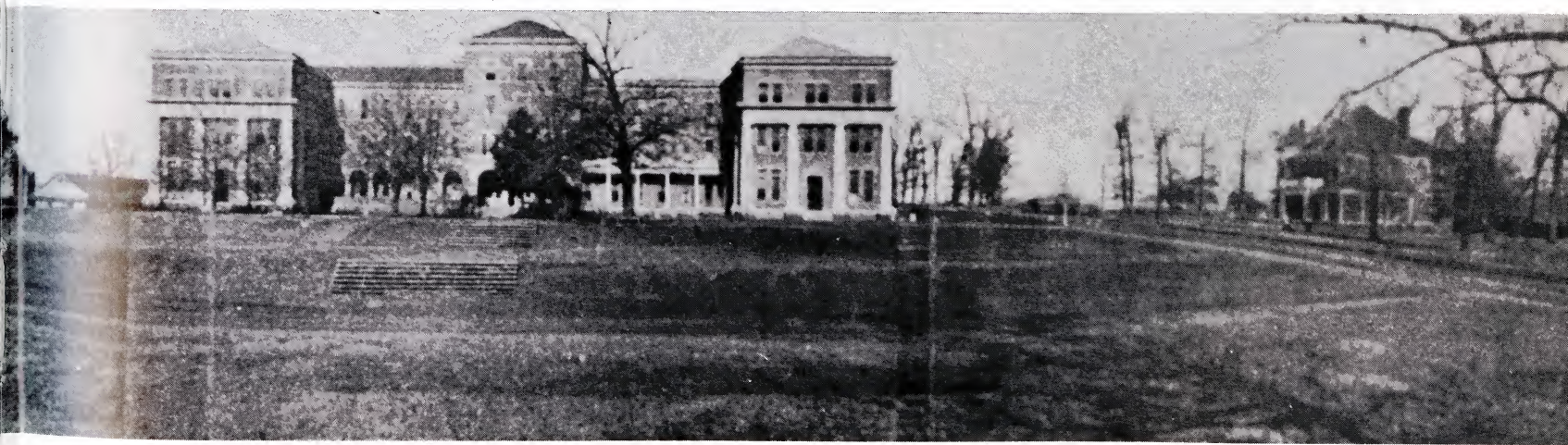
The gymnasium work for the coming session will consist of a combination of what is best in the Swedish and Delsarte systems. With the exception of club swinging, the work will be free hand and the first work is with exercises which help toward muscular control, correct breathing, walking and standing. There cannot be grace and freedom without strength, so the first work is for strength through the proper use of the lungs. The breathing exercises will greatly help all who expect to use the voice in any way.

One explanation for the emphasis on voice may be that the same person taught elocution as well as physical culture. In a few years it became "physical training," with an emphasis on exercise, physiology, and health.

There was, of course, great interest in and emphasis on the "industrial" classes — typewriting, dressmaking, cooking, even art and music were considered industrials. During Dr. Peterson's tenure, the liberal arts were not neglected. Required classes in history, English, and the sciences were augmented by literary study clubs such as the Tutwiler, nature study by the Philodendroi, dramatics by the Story Tellers League, and the like. Students were encouraged to enter essay contests, as did Lillie Fair Smith, whose paper "Could America Have Won the Revolutionary

(Top) Philodendroi Lodge, begun in 1907 and completed in 1910, was built by students for their nature club. No longer standing, it was located near where Flowerhill is now. Two hundred logs formed the walls; the stones used for outside finishing work were picked up at Davis Falls near Montevallo.

(Bottom) Panorama of buildings and campus, circa 1910: Reynolds Hall (called the Chapel) is to the left of Main Dormitory and the president's home to the right.





The library was in a large room on the second floor of Central Main from 1902 until Wills Hall was built in 1923. This photograph of the room in Main shows the statue of "Inspiration" which was bought with \$40 in prize money won by Miss Lillie Fair Smith in 1904 for her essay "Could America Have Won the Revolutionary War without the Help of France?" It has been a part of the library ever since that time and enjoys a featured spot in Carmichael Library today. The library itself was started by a women's literary club of Montevallo, Studiosis, with donations of books, shelving, and volunteer librarians.

War without the Help of France?" won, after many revisions, a \$40 prize in 1904. Anne Kennedy wrote of the occasion in her history and related that Miss Smith presented the prize to the school at assembly. Apparently, Dr. Peterson was too affected by her generosity to respond; Solomon Bloch arose and in "much moved tones" expressed appreciation for the gift and accepted it for the president. With the money, Dr. Peterson bought a bronze statue, "Inspiration," by French sculptor L. Pilet. It was placed in the school's library, then a room in Main dormitory. When a library was built in the 1920s and again when a new library was constructed in the 1960s, "Inspiration"

accompanied the books to their new locations. Miss Kennedy wrote, "The pretty stand which the figure occupies . . . came from Mary Frances Bibb, of the Dress-making Department, who with her co-workers had made it for this gift to the school. Thus it is that literature, industrial art, and fine art stand, together always, embodied in this lovely 'inspiration' at the door of the Alabama Technical Institute Library."

Thus, in its first decade, the Alabama Girls Industrial School had not only survived its first precarious years, it was growing and even beginning to flourish.

Dr. Peterson, however, was not in good health; demands on his time and ener-



(Above) 'Twas the night before chemistry exam, and all through the dormitory, students were burning the midnight oil.

(Right) In spite of strict regulations (lights out at 10 p.m., no correspondence with young men, required chapel attendance), Montevallo girls could have fun. In such a closed society, with few outside distractions, they often created their own entertainment.





(Above) Bonnie Caton was captain of the Rompers basketball team of 1911.

(Top Left) The 1911 track team was led by Elizabeth Hodges, captain.

(Left) Members of the Billiken basketball team of 1911 display their banner.

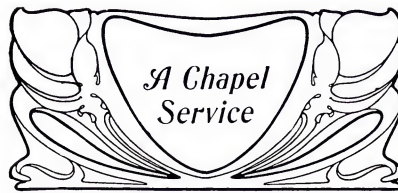


Art taken from 1909 *Chiaroscuro*

gies were constant. He was chief academic officer and business manager, performed such mundane (and un-presidential) duties as fixing the school's pump and walking the grounds at night to ensure the safety of the students; he and his family generally held open house at his home for innumerable visitors as well as students, who had great affection for him. The Board granted him leave of absence in 1906 and appointed J. Alex Moore, A.G.I.S. teacher of bookkeeping, as acting president.

It was during this interim period that the first yearbook, the *Chiaroscuro*, was published, with Annie Brice Miller of Camden as its editor and class president. In only a few ways is it akin to today's yearbooks. There is a dedication (to President Peterson); photographs of trustees, faculty, students, buildings (Reynolds, Main, and the president's home), club groups (YWCA, various literary and music societies) and athletic groups. But all of these early yearbooks published unsigned student essays (several on *Macbeth* and *Silas Marner*) that were surely class assignments; there are short stories and poems as well, thus giving a first glimpse of student creativity. Jokes, poor ones mostly, abound. ("Mr. Moore — 'Young ladies, for your next lesson please read Franklin's autobiography.' Daisy: 'Who is the author, Mr. Moore?'"") These yearbooks are far cries from sophistication, but they give a

more realistic view of school life, of student likes and dislikes, than other contemporary sources. The 1907 *Chiaroscuro* gives this description of a typical (daily) chapel program, though not the actual program, of course:



Art taken from 1907 *Chiaroscuro*

8:40 Alex tolls the big bell.
8:45 Miss Young, Miss Wilson, Miss Carr, and Miss Franklin hasten on the platform and begin their morning chat.

- 8:45:30 Mrs. Babb taps her bell and girls scurry into place.
8:46 Miss Bush tips in, settles herself at the grand piano, and begins a search in the Gospel Hymnal for No. 118.
8:46:30 Mr. Moore walks in, hangs his derby on the big dictionary and seats himself behind the post.
8:47 Miss Lawhon tips in, jingling the bracelets on her arm.
8:48 Miss Hardaway frisks in three feet ahead of Miss Grote.
8:49 Miss Fitts comes and trips it as she goes on her light fantastic toe.
8:50 Miss Kennedy rushes in breathlessly arranging her hair as she walks.
8:51 Miss Stallworth's class straggles in.
8:52 "Hezekiah" trots across the stage; the Preps giggle.
8:52:30 Miss McMath squeezes in on back row, displacing Miss Tice and Miss Sanders.
8:53:30 Miss Overall bounces in.
8:54 Miss Hayes establishes herself on the front seat, toes turned in.
8:54:30 Miss Haley tips in and sits by Mrs. Hudson, admiring her flowers.
8:55 Twenty-five faculty members are situated on stage with devout attention to the reading of the Scriptures.
8:55:30 Mr. Moore rises and we catch on the zephyr a faint whisper.
8:56 All still.
8:57 The chords; the girls rise to their feet.
9:00 Miss Moore's "Amen" lingers to remind us of the hymn we have been singing.
9:01 Announcements by the President.
9:01:30 The agony's over; girls get a farewell glance at their lessons.
9:05 Lucie makes a dash for the piano. Teachers rush to their various rooms.
9:06 Chapel's empty!



Could one of these girls be Condie Cunningham, the ghost of Main? She is listed among the girls of this 1907 basketball team. One night early in 1908, she and her roommate were cooking on a chafing dish. The lights out signal sounded at 10 p.m., and in their haste to clear away, they turned over a bottle of alcohol — fuel for the dish — and the flame caught Condie's robe on fire. She ran out into the hall where teachers and students rushed to save her, but her burns were too extensive and she died. Today, residents of Main claim they feel her presence.

The 1910 *Chiaroscuro* has a good many more photographs, signed essays and poems, and a higher level of wit, some of it cutting:

*There's a nineteen-tenner named Fisher,
Who of music made much of an issue,
She banged and she played,
This dear little maid,
Till all became her ill-wisher.*

It is also apparent, from the number of names in the 1910 yearbook, that the school was growing, not only in the number of students but also in the number of faculty and of organizations. One of the reasons for growth was the school's new president, Dr. Thomas Waverly Palmer, who served from 1907 to 1926 and led the school through its single most significant change, through two changes of name, and through dramatic growth.

Dr. Palmer brought impressive academic credentials from the University of Alabama, where he received master of arts and bachelor of engineering degrees; he taught mathematics there before becoming the first dean of the faculty, the position he held when he came to Montevallo as the third president of A.G.I.S.

When he came, he found a school mourning the loss of a beloved friend and leader, President Peterson. (Dr. Peterson died early in 1908, a few months after Dr. Palmer became president.) He also found a school on sound financial basis but in dire need of classroom, assembly, and office space; a school pioneering in the state in training music teachers, home economists, physical educators; a school where graduates were successful wage earners and homemakers; a school to which hundreds applied each year, many of whom were not accepted because of lack of space.

President Palmer possessed the vision and leadership necessary to guide the school through a period of growth and identity-seeking to a stage where the school's original principles of basic education and professional training were retained, but a foundation for significant expansion was laid.

(Top) Davis Falls, near Montevallo, was a favorite spot to visit for many years, as this 1900 group shows. Students still go there, but report that the footpath is in danger of being eaten up by kudzu.

(Middle) The proper dress for tennis in 1910.

(Bottom) This was the "bus," short for "omnibus," that took students to the train station, though not often. In the early days there was no holiday at Thanksgiving, and only one day at Christmas.





CHAPTER 2

Alabama Girls Technical Institute

1911-1923

There is odium attached to the present name. The general use of the name "Industrial School" for reformatory schools in almost every state in the Union causes our pupils to have to make explanations concerning the nature and character of the school to nearly everyone living in other states and even to some intelligent people in this state. This is very galling and even humiliating to our students.

In 1910, President Palmer made this report to the Board of Trustees, who agreed, and in the next year, the Legislature changed the name from Alabama Girls Industrial School to Alabama Girls Technical Institute.

More changes were on the way — elbow room, for one. The school bought the Nabors property, better known today as King House, and its family cemetery. This was followed by a flurry of building — the stone water tower in 1910-11, the infirmary (Peterson Hall) in 1913-14, the first separate permanent classroom building (Bloch Hall) in 1915, and a music building (Calkins Hall) in 1918.

Curricular changes were developed as well; some programs, such as telegraphy, were phased out because of lack of interest; others, particularly education and music, grew because of demand. Public schools in Alabama were improving, and there was a growing need for adequately trained, certified teachers. The school in Montevallo was well established by this time and was

(Opposite) Art was considered a profession suitable for women, and was offered as one of the "industrial" subjects from the opening of school. In addition to drawing and painting, pottery and basket-making were taught.



Thomas Waverly Palmer was president from 1907 until his death in January of 1926, longer than any president in the college's history. Partly because of his length of tenure, but also because of his vision and determination, his influence on the direction the college took was profound. In fact, he saw the industrial school become a four-year college accredited by the Southern Association. There was great expansion of the physical plant during his administration to accommodate increasing enrollment and development of the curriculum: two classroom buildings, an infirmary, and a library. A dairy was begun, and so was summer school. A number of traditions and institutions had their beginnings in his administration, including the Student Government Association, College Night, and student publications. Under his leadership students were employed on campus to help defray their tuition — making the institution the first college in Alabama, and one of the few in the nation, to do so.

granting diplomas for proficiency in several areas.

Dr. Palmer, ever the pragmatic visionary, told the Board of Trustees:

In the code of 1907 after provision is made for instruction in certain departments, are these words, "and the Trustees shall, from time to time, establish and maintain departments wherein every other branch of human knowledge or industry by which women may live shall be taught."

Clearly it seems to have been the idea of the Legislature that the A. G. T. I. should be a great educational institution for the all round training of the State's Young Women giving them advantages equal to those offered to young men in preparing for life's duties.

At this juncture, Palmer interjected a statement concerning a policy, the implications of which are quite remarkable:

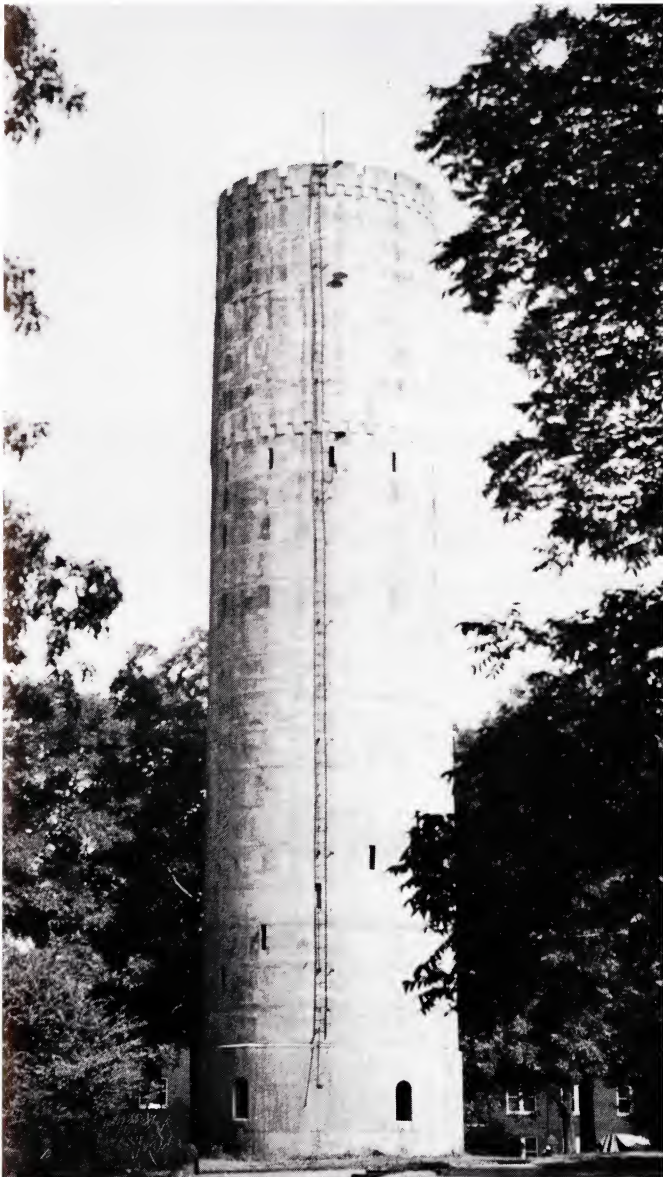
The school has always stood for sound and thorough instruction. Though authorized to grant degrees it has never granted one, but has simply given diplomas for work that was actually accomplished. Those in charge in the early days of the school cannot be too strongly commended for their wise course in this matter. Many other institutions were recklessly granting degrees for courses of study perhaps no higher than those given here; Montevallo held to an honest straightforward policy and thus was again one of the leaders in promoting high ideals.

The school was preparing for the most significant change in its history — it would become a college. The change was not overnight; gradually college work was added until a full four-year program was attained in most departments by 1918-19, though the first bachelor's degree (in home economics) was not awarded until 1922. Simultaneously, the years of preparatory work were dropped.

It is significant that during this period and for some years to come, the school at Montevallo pioneered in certain fields in Alabama, and in certain areas in the Southeast: home economics, including vocational home economics (the state designated A.G.T.I. as the training school for teachers of vocational home economics); music (for a time, A.G.T.I. was the only state-supported school in Alabama offering music; it was one of the earliest schools in the nation offering a degree in public school music); physical education for women (for some years, A.G.T.I. was the only school in Alabama, and one of the few in the South, offering teacher



(Above) Bloch Hall was the first building on campus erected exclusively for classes and answered a crucial need for space. Up until this time — 1915 — classes were held in Reynolds, in Main Dormitory, in temporary frame structures, and even in private homes in Montevallo. Housing classes in science and home economics, it was named for founder and trustee Sol Bloch.



(Left) The Tower was built in 1911 as a real water tower and was the only means of water storage for general use until 1962. Tank capacity was 109,000 gallons, and alumni recall cold winters when it was festooned with long icicles. In 1962 a new (conventional) water tower was built and the old Tower converted to offices for student publications. Chimes marking the hours were originally installed in 1964 and replaced in 1988.



Annie Philpot was the first student government president in 1918-1919, was on the Honor Roll each year, and was editor of the 1920 yearbook. Student government had its beginnings in 1914 when seniors were given a hall of their own (without teachers) where they governed themselves. In 1917 an Honor Board, with representatives from each class, was established.

training in physical education); and art education. Others were to follow in ensuing decades: social work, progressive education, and speech pathology.

Summer school was started in 1916 — a six-week course costing \$35.50 — and was intended primarily for teachers. Nearly 300 women enrolled, the largest number ever attending the first session of any summer school in Alabama. A good many came to take some of the technical subjects or to extend their teachers' certificates, but courses were offered in English, dramatics, and the sciences as well. There were even a few men in attendance.

In spite of the appearance of concentration on those programs leading to professional degrees, there was no lack of emphasis on the traditional liberal arts. The departments of English, history, foreign languages, mathematics, and biology increased in the number of faculty and in the variety of courses offered, particularly as college-level offerings were introduced. The 1911 catalog gave a list of "purposes" for the school with this preamble:

The object of the State in establishing and supporting this school was to give therein instruction in the liberal arts and sciences. The purposes:

1. *To exert an uplifting and refining influence in the home and society by means of the cultural intellect attained by systematic training in the liberal arts and sciences.*
2. *To be skillful in those domestic arts that are fundamental in all true housekeeping and homemaking.*
3. *To do effective work as professional teachers.*
4. *To be self-supporting through proficiency in one or more of those industrial or fine arts open to women.*

There were other advancements signifying the maturity of the school under Dr. Palmer's leadership, some of them affecting student life significantly.

Student Government

Student government officially began in 1918 when a group of girls successfully petitioned the president and faculty for the right to have a voice in their own affairs; before this time, however, there were certain steps taken that led to this. In the spring of 1913, a committee from the junior class asked for the privilege of having a hall for themselves in the dormitory for their senior year in 1914-15.

They were successful not only in getting permission but also in governing themselves. A Junior Hall was added in 1915-16. In February 1917 an Honor Board (later called the Executive Board) was organized, made up of representatives from the classes. The first publication of the Student Self Government Association (1918-1919) contains the constitution, bylaws and regulations of the association. Officers were elected from among Executive Board members, the president and



vice president being selected from senior representatives. Each student "upon matriculation becomes a member of the Student Self Government Association," and was assessed a membership fee of twenty-five cents. The Executive Board assumed all governmental duties — executive, legislative, and judicial.

Hall proctors were elected (for two-week terms) to ensure order in the dormitory. Bylaws gave detailed duties of the proctors (a written report each week was to be endorsed by the teacher living on her hall) who made frequent inspections during study hour and the recreation period, "and at other times when necessary." The general regulations covered a variety of topics concerning dormitory life (students were to remain in their rooms during study hours; no talking from windows, for example), and conduct in the dining hall (no tableware to be taken from the dining hall; complaints about food to be made in writing to the food supervisor). There were strict rules governing study hours and even regarding bathing ("If a shower bath is desired by any student, it may be taken during the day or any time before evening study hour.") Going to downtown Montevallo was permissible only between the afternoon hours of 3:30 and 5:30, and then on certain days of the week (for seniors, any Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday; for freshmen the fourth Monday and Thursday of each



(Top) It was strictly against the rules to take food from the dining hall, and you can be sure this scene was staged for the camera. The girls called themselves "The Sinful Six."

(Bottom) According to the Alabamian, May Day observances began in 1925, but this photograph and others in early yearbooks prove that there were May Day celebrations as early as 1912.

month). Moreover, "students are not expected to loiter in town. Under no circumstances must they entertain or be entertained by young men or small boys while off the campus."

In spite of the strict regulation, students managed to have a good time at Montevallo, sometimes poking fun at their own rules. One of the annuals about this time published a list of "Thou Shalt Nots" and "Thou Shalts." Some of the Shalt Nots were: "Wear heels on thy shoes, or bows in thy hair; Use the telephone, especially when teachers are around." Some of the Shalts were: "Do two hours of 'reference' work, practice, and learn all thy many lessons in two and one-half hours. Eat soup, for it is very fattening." Soup must have been the bane of student existence during this time; the yearbooks have numerous references to it, and to the students' dislike for it. Winnie D. Neely wrote a poem for the 1911 yearbook about the things she would remember about Montevallo:

*I remember, I remember
The soup — I guess I oughter;
We had it every day for lunch;
'Twas plentiful as water.
If I had all the soup we drank,
I'd make a swimming pool
So cold and dark and deep and dank,
and will it to the school.*

First Grade Certificate girls in 1916 were Charlotte Warner, Mabel Brunson, Laura Andrews, Florence Thomas, Willie Sellers, Ruth Wilks, Louise Latham, Gladys Jones-Williams, Vida Corley, Jennie Rowan, Bessie Barnes, Edna Hoyt, Clara Savage, Jessie Thompson, and Effie Mae Fulton.

Uniforms

One of the few direct effects of World War I on the school was that, thanks to the difficulty in obtaining fabric of consistent quality, the school uniform requirement was dropped. Students

were overjoyed. They complained, as evidence in the yearbooks shows, that the uniforms were uncomfortable and (most unfortunately) unfashionable. Students were not required to wear them daily, but only on public occasions, which included church services. This essay by Vida Corley appeared in the *Technala* of 1916, one of the last years uniforms were required.



The Lament of the Uniform

Long ago, in the good old days when I was young, things were very different. Many changes have come about, changes which I hope are for the best. It has all happened by slow degrees. The climate I think has produced this change in me. In my earlier days, I was rather light in weight, so very light that on cold Sundays the people who made me walk complained about me. They said that I looked cold because of my horrid old color, and that I was not "thick." Inwardly I began to crave to become "thick." What was meant by the word I did not know, but I knew that I couldn't consider my own welfare and please others.

I found out through conversations which I overheard that there were rules which concerned me. I have not found any difficulty in obeying them for they are as simple as can be. I should not say "they," but "it," for there is only one rule which says that I shall be worn on all public occasions. I know the rule perfectly and I just keep obeying it over and over again with slight variation.

Many times I am imposed upon. I am seldom called for until I hear a little jingling sound that I've heard called a bell. Then part of me is thrown on, and some pins (never more than two or three) find their way in me, and cause me to cling. The other part of me which requires no pins is thrown on, and then I'm off to a "public occasion." I always go in a double line and sometime, in order to get in with the others, some unthoughtful member makes me run. This I detest.

The last change that came over me was the greatest of all. When I returned one September, I found that during my rest, I had become heavy. One day I heard someone exclaim, "Oh! Miss Patterson, it is so nice and thick!" "Thick," I repeated, I have at last reached my sole aim. (Miss Patterson, I think, has helped the climate change me.) I am less called for now than I used to be. I am hoping that a plan will be made for a complete rest-cure for me. It is evidently what I need.

I make my complaint public, hoping and trusting that more consideration will be shown me in the future; that is, if I continue to live on the floors of A.G.T.I. closets.

Vida Corley, '16

Student Employment

Students were employed in the dining hall as servers and in the dormitory as general cleaners. Dr. Palmer said, "This is the first school in the State, if not in the Nation," to do so. He reported to the Board of Trustees in 1910:

The experiment has been tried this year of employing students for



The editorial staff of the 1914 Technala is shown.



(Top) Holidays such as Halloween provided an outlet for all sorts of creativity — designing and constructing costumes, writing and directing skits. This is a “Hallowe’en Court” scene.

(Bottom) Minnie Cross was president of the senior class of 1919, winners of the first College Night. When the school began adding college-level courses to the curriculum, students observed, “now that our school is becoming a college, we have begun to take up college stunts.” The four classes competed with skits, songs, toasts, and poems. “It will probably become a custom for all succeeding years,” the 1919 yearbook prophetically stated. And so it has. In observance of the school’s twenty-fifth anniversary in 1921 the students were divided into two sides: Purples and Golds, reflecting the college colors.

sweeping and cleaning the dormitory. It has proved eminently satisfactory, and while it has cost a little more, the building has been kept much cleaner and the work was worth more. Nearly all of the work in the dining room and dormitory is now performed by students. It is our purpose to extend this service by them into other departments as fast as we can feel reasonably assured that it can be done successfully.

Moreover, students were still expected to keep their own rooms clean. In the University Archives, the Palmer papers contain several letters from other school administrators (including Livingston’s Julia Tutwiler) inquiring about student employment.

College Night

From 1896 on, students had often created their own amusements. Calendars published in the annuals show banquets and sundry other celebrations at Halloween, Washington’s birthday, and other special occasions. In early 1919, they said “now that our school is becoming a college, we have begun to take up college stunts.” The first was held in the dining hall on March 3, and was a competition among the four classes.

Today’s students would hardly recognize this as College Night. Each class presented to its audience (mostly faculty and administrators) an original poem, a toast, an original song, and something called an impersonation, which was a serious or comic interpretation (or reenactment) of a literary or historic character or event. There are no scripts, if any existed, of these early impersonations, but a sense of their creativity and imagination can be derived from the titles and from comments in the 1919 *Technala*. The senior impersonation was “A Girl’s Four Years at A.G.T.I.” (*tres jolie*, a poem in the *Technala* said); the junior impersonation was “A Duet by Mmes. Louise Homer and Alma Gluck” (the students sang like two birds); the sophomores impersonated the Katzenjammer family (extremely unique); a member of the freshman class gave an impersonation of Cardinal Gibbons. One of the toasts appears in the 1919 *Technala*:

Senior Toast

*Here’s to the origin of our College Night
To all who make our College Night;
The faculty, officers and students.
We have always known that we loved you
But as yet, have never told you.
So here’s to you all, to-night, good friends,
And I come with White and Green —
And drink to you, love and loyalty,
In the name of Class ’19.*

It was written by Mattie Lee and delivered by Eva Glenn, both seniors in 1919.

A junior, Annie Laurie Larkins, wrote this poem for the yearbook:

College Night

*'Twas College Night, and all through the halls,
Every creature was stirring and answering calls.
Here, girls borrowing stockings, a shirt waist or two —
A sash or a skirt — just anything would do.
Upstairs and downstairs, they all came and went.
Dolling and primping for the coming event.
Much giggling and whispering made an incessant roar;
And you knew that for all a good time was in store.
The dining room, vast, was a wonderful sight,
With streamers a-flying, and candles a-light.
Mrs. Jenkins had been most thoughtful and kind
To prepare the good eats on which we soon dined.
Programs were arranged for a night of surprise,
With judges appointed to give out the prize.
The green little Freshmen were the first to take part,
With a song and a poem and a toast read "by heart."
Then the Sophs, who vainly for glory did seek,
Although their "cute" stunts were extremely unique.
The Juniors, so jolly, did wondrously render
A program brimful of glory and splendor;
From Homer and Gluck, who sang like two birds,
To a song with original music and words.
In the honest opinion of the just and wise,
This said Junior class deserved well the prize.
Just try to imagine each Junior's elation
When after the show she received her carnation.
Then the Seniors presented their acts, tres jolie,
And the judges were wan, we could all plainly see.
And when they, the victors, took the prize of the night,
The Juniors decided perhaps it was right;
As glories, for Seniors, would soon be passe',
While Juniors look forward to "that future day"
When they, as Seniors, in Red and White bowers,
Will plan better stunts and win fairer flowers.*

A.L.L. '20.

College Night 1920 followed the same pattern, with the four classes competing



Mock weddings were quite popular in the early 20th century. They were fun to plan, fun to watch, and you got to dress up. These young ladies and "gentlemen" are R. Griffin, M. McQueen, E.M. Fulton, H. Watson, F. Goode, J.P. Hinton, E. Hanseal, B. Jackson, L. Waldrop, A. Stockmar, C. Warner, C. Ashurst, M. Adams, A. Nunley, B. Barnes, and M. Stabler.

in the dining hall. The 25th anniversary of the college was the next year, and in celebration of this milestone, the student body was divided into two sides representing the school's colors, Purple and Gold. Ora Swann of Marion was the first Purple leader and Lillian Sharpley of Birmingham the first Gold leader. The Golds won.

There were changes in College Night over the years, most of them gradual. For some years, students could not select the side to which they wanted to belong — they were assigned by lot; many students, therefore, might be Golds one year and Purples the next, thus ensuring

loyalty to College Night rather than to a side.

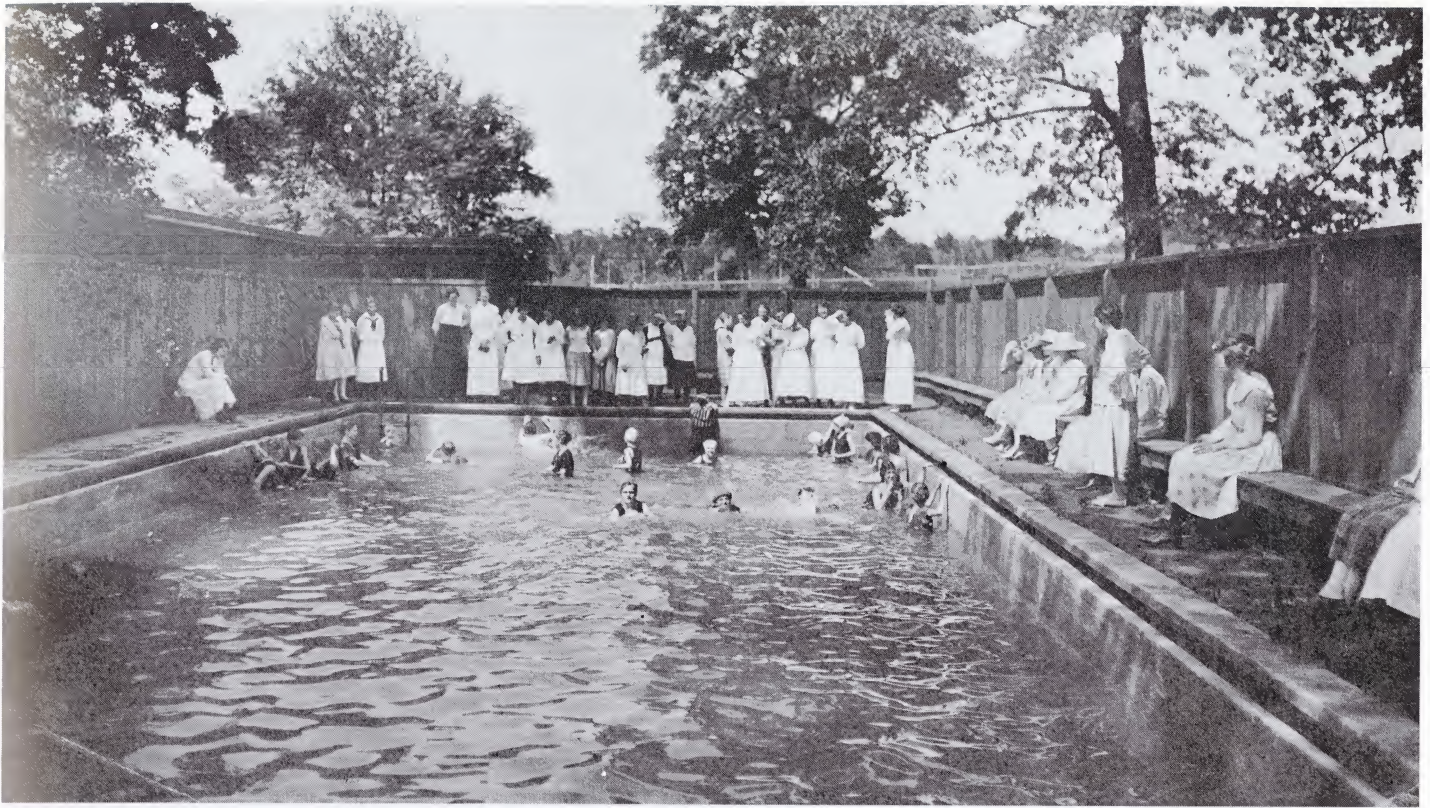
The performances moved from the dining hall in Main, to the chapel in Reynolds, and in 1930 to Palmer Hall, where they are held today. Gradually, changes to the program took place — toasts were dropped; each side from some years had a "slow" song and a "pep" song, a dramatic "impersonation," and an original comedic "stunt." Cheers were added — some new each year and some traditional.

Yearbook

The student annual, begun in 1907 as the *Chiaroscuro*, changed its name in 1911 to the *Technala* to reflect the school's new name. It is here we see firsthand the faces of these girls, their activities, their attitudes toward regulations and teachers, and their lives outside class. The annuals often included a list of events during the year, proving that life at school was full of things to do:

Sands of Time of 1911-1912

<i>Opening Day</i>	<i>September 13</i>
<i>YWCA Reception</i>	<i>September 16</i>
<i>Shelby County Fair</i>	<i>September 27-29</i>
<i>Anniversary Day</i>	<i>October 12</i>
<i>Pasmore Trio</i>	<i>October 25</i>
<i>Vassar Girls</i>	<i>October 27</i>
<i>Hallowe'en Festivities</i>	<i>October 31</i>
<i>Teacher's Recital</i>	<i>November 9</i>
<i>Masquerade Party by Organizations</i>	<i>November 11</i>
<i>First Term Examinations</i>	<i>November 27-29</i>
<i>Miss Brooke's Reception to Visitors and Seniors</i>	<i>November 29</i>
<i>Thanksgiving Service</i>	<i>November 30</i>
<i>Senior and Junior Match Game of Basket Ball</i>	<i>November 30</i>
<i>W.C. Best First Concert</i>	<i>December 9</i>
<i>"Peace Movement," by Mr. Holt</i>	<i>December 16</i>
<i>Christmas Service by Seniors</i>	<i>December 21</i>



(Top) In 1917 the student Athletic Association began to raise money to build a swimming pool. Proceeds from a basketball game held at commencement time went toward the fund, and other entertainments brought in more money. The architect donated his fees (\$176.85), and other gifts were donated. When the old music practice rooms were torn down, the lumber was used to build dressing rooms. In March 1918 the swimming pool was opened. It measured 30 feet by 65 feet, and was "the largest owned by any athletic association, YWCA, UWCA, or college in the state of Alabama." Alumni from the 1940s may remember when Miss Peters' dog Dick Tracy somehow got trapped in the pool area and was rescued by students Annie Ruth Beasley and Phyllis Williams. Beasley broke the rules to climb the wall to get to him. The school's "new" swimming pool was built in 1951.



(Middle) "In the spring of 1922 a group of three girls dived through the icy surface of the swimming pool at 5:30 a.m. for eighteen days and came up to work vigorously for that honorable attainment which a Red Cross Life-Saving Certificate proclaims and which application attests whenever there's a call of help from the water. Addie Scarbrough, Elsie Mahaffey and Jean Collins, the first girls of the school to wear lifesaving emblems, passed the examination with high merit under the direction of Dorothy Richey." So reported the Technala of 1923. Work continued during the summer term under the direction of Joanna Sharpe, until two lifesaving crews of faculty and students were formed. (Eloise Meroney and Lulu Palmer were among them.) These members from 1922-1923 are not identified.

(Bottom) The YWCA was active on campus for 60 years from 1897 to 1957, sponsoring a variety of activities both religious and secular. For a time it sponsored a daily meditation period; special services at Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter; Religious Emphasis Week; and Drives Week for fund-raising projects. For most of its years it was the principal party-giver on campus, particularly at the beginning of the school year to introduce new students to their classmates. From the 1920s until 1947 it even operated the Tea Room, the only place on campus where students could buy supplies and snacks. Many of their activities were taken over by SGA, the Student Religious Association, or, in the case of the Tea Room, by the college itself. The young women pictured here were YWCA board members in 1913-1914.



The 1920 Glee Club poses for a formal photograph.

Sports were important to A.G.T.I. students — there were class teams in tennis and basketball; the junior-senior basketball game was a highlight of Thanksgiving celebrations for years. The teams had colors, and yells. A freshman yell from 1910 dismissed the nickname “Rats” given to them by the upper classes:

Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans and squash

Freshman, Freshman! Rats? Oh, bosh!

And the annuals show the clubs, of which there seemed to be dozens. Some appeared to be short-lived, or formed purely for amusement, such as the Ate-Hoo-Are Club (colors: chocolate and egg; motto: “life’s too short to worry.”); others were longer-lived and more serious-minded. There were several literary clubs which were quite active, clubs for those interested in music, art, “Kodaking,” and, of course, sports — tennis, croquet, and hiking. We note their sentiment with wry amusement, we puzzle over their inside jokes, we may even be startled at some of the barbed squibs underneath girls’ portraits (of Corrie Bess Hall, member of the Kodaking Club and of the basketball team in 1909: “A rosebud set with little willful thorns,” and of Leola Omerea Faulk of Dothan and class president, 1909-10: “What a spendthrift is she of her tongue.”). But mostly it is those faces, that hair, those clothes — these are our mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers as we never knew them.

Dr. Palmer was intimately involved with all aspects of the developing college

and was determined that the school would experience a continuing dedication to increased quality, whether it was an upgrading of the curriculum in music or the establishment of a first-class dairy to supply fresh milk to the dining hall. In his annual reports to the Board of Trustees, his involvement is evident. In one report he noted that "the kitchen outfit was found to be wholly inadequate for the large number of students."

It seems that Dr. James Searcy, superintendent of the insane asylum, had delivered a lecture at the school and was asked to inspect the kitchens; Dr. Searcy made a number of recommendations, which were followed. Dr. Palmer said, "In this connection... it is our purpose to bring the Domestic Science Department and the School Kitchen into closer relation.... So far in the history of the school, the Cooking Department has contributed nothing towards improving the dietary of the dining room." Other dietary concerns were more promising: "We are now raising the greater portion of the vegetables and all of the pork used by the school. Last summer several hundreds of cans of beans and tomatoes were put up which were of a much better quality than any that can be bought in the markets."

One of Dr. Palmer's visions was to establish a dairy on the school's farm land. "First," he said, "to furnish the school with good wholesome milk and butter at a reasonable cost; second, to establish a school of dairying." The first was accomplished to the pride of Dr. Palmer and the school. The 1913-14 catalog could boast, "The Institute has a dairy herd of fifty cows which supplies about seventy-five gallons of milk daily for the students." The dairy was successful for years and the herd was built into a fine thoroughbred one. Some of the old breeding and milk production records are in the University Archives.

"The school owns about two hundred fifty acres of land adjoining the campus," the 1913-1914 catalog stated. "Trucking, dairying, and diversified farming are carried on." Pork, beef, milk, and vegetables were supplied to the dining hall, and students received training through the Domestic Science Department. Students are harvesting strawberries from this field which was in the area now occupied by Hanson, Ramsay, and Tutwiler Halls.





President Palmer decided to start a dairy "to furnish the school with good wholesome milk and butter at a reasonable cost." For a short time girls were trained in dairy work. By 1913, there was a herd of fifty cows supplying seventy-five gallons of milk a day to the dining hall. Operation of the dairy lasted some fifty years, and as a result the college became famous for its homemade ice cream.

In 1923 *The Birmingham News* published a photograph of "Knapp Hangerveld Johanna DeKol," who produced 11,631.5 pounds of milk in less than a year. "At present," the paper said, "each girl is furnished one quart of milk per day [from the school's dairy] besides what is used in cooked foods. Each pupil is also given three times per week as much pure ice cream as she can eat."

That ice cream was famous for decades. In 1951, the student newspaper published the recipe for "Miss Irvin's Ice Cream," as made by Jesse Peoples, who had been making it since 1910:

26 gallons cream

4 gallons condensed milk

40 pounds sugar

72 rennet tablets

6 ounces plain gelatine

Warm the cream and sugar in a big boiler set in a steam table, add the rennet and gelatine and let stand fifteen minutes until partially congealed. Stir in the condensed milk and carry into the freezing room. Herbert, the official freezer, will pour the mixture into ten-gallon freezers which are inside wooden cases filled with ice and ice cream salt. It takes about half an hour for the freezing. Yield: 40 gallons.

There were variations with fruits, chocolate and caramel sauces. An inadvertent flavor was onion in the spring when cows were eating fresh grass and wild onion shoots.

Dr. Palmer's concern was not limited to fresh milk and ice cream for students. All aspects of the curriculum received his attention. Shortly after he became president, he complained to the Board in his characteristically blunt fashion: "With one exception, all of the thirty pianos owned by the school are practically worthless." He also expressed dissatisfaction with the general program in music, and was determined to find the best possible director for that department. He did. That person was Charles R. Calkins, a native of Massachusetts who had studied at the New England Conservatory of Music. This was not Calkins' first job in Alabama. He was offered a teaching position in Evergreen, Alabama, and accepted after his hand froze to a doorknob in Winnipeg, Canada, where he was teaching at the time.

Although he was only 26 years old when he accepted such a position of responsibility, Calkins quickly proved his worth; the curriculum was revised and expanded, some faculty members were replaced with more qualified ones, new pianos were bought, performing music groups were organized on campus and off. In the few years he was at Montevallo, he accomplished more than most people accomplish in a lifetime. According to historian Lucille Griffith, he became one of the most influential educators in standardizing school music study in Alabama and other states.

A more concrete legacy from Calkins — and Palmer — was a new music building. Classroom problems had been eased somewhat by 1915 when Bloch Hall was

ATI AND C. S. S.

WORDS BY MISS MARY G. STALLWORTH. MUSIC BY CHARLES R. CALKINS.

In the heart of Ala-bama Dwells our Alma Mater Star Thru her
purple fleams of Golden Call her daughters from a far For
eye shall we a-dore thee Thy fame has spread be-fore thee For
eye shall we a-dore thee Hail to thee! Hail to thee For
eye, Fa eye, for eye shall we a-dore thee O. Hail! O. Hail to thee

Taken from the 1921 *Technala*

The Alma Mater, composed by Charles R. Calkins, was used until coeducation in 1956 made the words obsolete. Mary Goode Stallworth, who must have been a Renaissance woman, wrote the lyrics. She served in a variety of capacities in her long career at Montevallo from 1897 to 1930, as teacher of mathematics, dean of the faculty, and chairman of the art department.

built, but many classes were still held in Reynolds or its wooden extensions. The Music Department was so situated, in a "shanty," Dr. Palmer called it. Calkins Hall, built in 1917-18, was the jewel of the campus. The interior, which had classroom space, studios, and a concert hall, was decorated with details of musical instruments. Mr. Calkins was not to enjoy his fine new building long. He died suddenly in 1921. The impact of his death was deeply felt, even affecting enrollment. "Attendance is sixty below that of last session," Dr. Palmer reported in November of 1921. "This falling off... is due to several causes. The death of Mr. Calkins caused some music students to go elsewhere."

Mr. Calkins was not the only outstanding faculty member during Dr. Palmer's presidency. There were men and women who would provide the foundation for future growth and what would be called the "Golden Age" of the college.

One of these was Mary Goode Stallworth, who was on the faculty some time before Dr. Palmer came (she was hired in 1897), but whose years were long and productive. She began her career as a mathematics instructor, known as a demanding and sometimes formidable teacher whose classes were used by prospective teachers as models. Among the positions she held were that of dean and, from 1925 until her death in 1930, head of the Art Department. She was versatile indeed, and not completely formidable: she is considered a promoter, if not a founder, of College Night and wrote the words of the *Alma Mater* which was used until co-education made it inappropriate. Mr. Calkins wrote the music.

Other faculty and administrators whose influences were long lasting included:

Myrtle Brooke, who was hired in 1908 to teach psychology, ethics, and logic. Of her many services to the state, county, and college, her most important achievement was the development of an undergraduate program in social work, the first in the Southeast.

W.J. Kennerly, hired as chairman of the Department of Chemistry and Physics. Later, the responsibility of organizing academic processions was added to his du-

Charles Rendell Calkins directed the Music Department from 1913 until his sudden death in 1921. In the short years he was here he reorganized the Music Department, enlarged course offerings, and formed music groups on campus and in the community.



ties. His career here was a very long one. He was an amateur magician and claimed to have introduced squirrels to the campus (but not by magic).

Rebecca Funk, who laid the foundations for a major and a minor in physical education. Under her leadership, an Athletic Association and Physical Education Club were formed and intercollegiate athletics started.

Eloise Meroney, 1917 alumna and daughter of Montevallo civic leader and A.G.T.I. trustee Charles L. Meroney. Known as an excellent and demanding teacher, she had great influence on the development of the English Department.

Willena Peck, resident physician from 1915 to 1952. One of the few women M.D.'s in the early 20th century, she was highly respected in the medical profession and dearly loved on campus.

E.H. Wills, hired as purchasing agent in 1909. He taught history and commercial law and was made business manager in 1929, a position he held until his death in 1946.

Anna Irvin, supervisor of food services from 1920 until 1952. She enjoyed a reputation for delicious meals served in the dining halls. Years after her retirement, people still recall her delicious ice cream and brown bread.

Maurice Jones-Williams, a courtly Welshman who was hired as an electrician but was much more than that. In subsequent years his title changed to "engineer" and "superintendent of buildings and grounds." It is undoubtedly he who was responsible for the placement of many of the trees on campus.

O.C. Carmichael, who was indisputably Dr. Palmer's most significant appointment. A brilliant scholar and man of vision, he came to A.G.T.I. in 1922 as dean of the college. He was made president of Alabama College in 1926 after Dr. Palmer's death.

So the stage was set, not for a dramatic grand opening, but by a meticulously planned series of steps, for the maturation of a training school into a "full-fledged" college.

(Top) Calkins Hall was completed in 1918 for the music department. It is one of the loveliest buildings on campus with hand carved stone entrances and fine proportions. The interior was decorated with details of musical instruments, and the concert hall finished in richly decorative plaster work. After the new music building (Maxine Couch Davis Hall) was built in 1971, Calkins Hall was renovated to house administrative offices.

(Bottom) Springtime at Montevallo provided an opportunity for a group photograph of faculty and students. The picture was made April 7, 1921.





CHAPTER 3

Alabama College

1923-1941

Birmingham News, May 10, 1923. Montevallo, Alabama — special:

The trustees of the Alabama Technical Training School and College for Women, in session here in connection with the annual commencement..., voted unanimously to change the name of the institution to Alabama College, striking out in the interest of efficiency and newspaper workers at the same time. Alabama Technical Training School and College for Women has always been hard to say and harder to remember, the trustees admitted, and is harder still on headline writers, newspapers declare.

The benefit to newspapers, of course, is only incidental, but publications throughout the state are expected to receive the news with even greater joy than the students, who always have wanted something snappy to “rah-rah” about.

Jessica Ingram, the reporter responsible for the above story, didn't get the school's old name quite right — proving her point that Alabama Girls Technical Institute and College for Women was a mouthful.

The students and faculty had more than the new, snappy name to “rah-rah” about. Dr. Palmer had increased the number of faculty, and they were enlarging

(Opposite) Alabama College students converge on Main Quad with its distinctive brick walkways on a balmy day during the 1938-39 school year.



A library, later to be named Wills Hall, was built in 1923. The facility featured a ninety-foot-long reading room with soaring, arched Palladian windows.

(Below) Bright gold pins featuring the image of a young woman in a mortarboard proclaimed the Million Dollar Drive for Montevallo.

and enriching the curriculum. Enrollment was on the rise and graduates were successful in getting jobs. But there were still problems. The president's home had burned in 1921 and the Palmers were living in temporary quarters in the infirmary. The president noted to the Board of Trustees that the school was lucky not to have experienced any epidemics during the five years the Palmers lived there. The growing library was still jammed into a room in Main Dormitory; there was hardly room for students to go there to study or to use the materials. The student body was

rapidly outgrowing the chapel in Reynolds; applications for admission were turned down for lack of dormitory space.

Montevallo High School classes met in overcrowded Reynolds as well, where Alabama College students did their practice teaching. The increase in the number of college students in education was putting a great strain on the facilities there.

The space problem was on its way to being solved by this time. In 1923 a library, later named Wills Hall, was built, with a ninety-foot-long reading room, a steel stack area, and offices for librarians. The outstanding feature of the design was the reading room with soaring, arched Palladian windows. According to the 1923 catalog, the collection numbered 8,000 books. Fanny Taber, who was later among the first group named to the Alabama Library Association's Roll of Honor, was the library director.



In 1924, capital funds from the state being in short supply, the college started a public fund campaign called the Million Dollar Drive. Dr. Palmer relieved the dean, Dr. Carmichael, of his academic duties to direct it, and committees of alumnae, students, and friends of education were organized into fund-raising units. Two hundred-eighty local committees were organized, largely by students, in small towns and cities in the state. Newspaper coverage was good; the *Birmingham News*, for example, had a two-page spread in July about the overcrowded dormitories: "It is a pitiful story of congestion and overcrowding, of refined and cultured and ambitious young women huddled together." The drive was successful, although the full million dollars was not raised. The



Ramsay Dormitory — now Ramsay Conference Center and Lodge — was one of the buildings that resulted from Montevallo's Million Dollar Drive in the 1920s. It was named for Janet Erskine Ramsay, the mother of benefactor Erskine Ramsay who donated \$100,000 for the building. Upper-class women lived there for many years. After co-education when dormitory space was needed, men lived there. In 1979-1980, a major renovation was done to convert the residence hall into meeting rooms and living quarters for visitors.

most significant gift —\$100,000— was that of Birmingham's Erskine Ramsay, a mining engineer and executive of the Pratt Consolidated Coal Company. Victor Hanson, publisher of the Birmingham *News*, donated \$10,000 and the employees of his paper \$2,500. Faculty donated more than \$5,000.

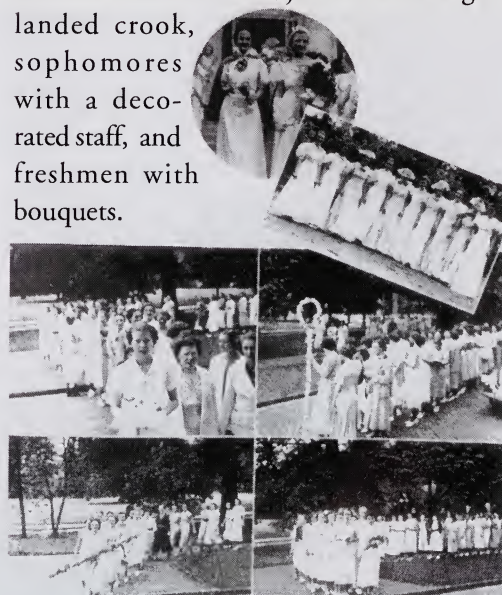
From these gifts, and the many small ones, the school was able to build Flowerhill (the president's home), Ramsay Dormitory, and the auditorium (Palmer Hall). (Hanson Dormitory was built primarily with funds from the state, supplemented by Mr. Hanson's gift. Montevallo High School was built from these funds and from appropriations from the Town of Montevallo and Shelby County.)

It was during this active '20s decade that several developments of particular interest to students were initiated. The yearbook, of course, was well established, as was student government, but there was no newspaper. In the 1923-24 school year, this gap was filled and the *Van Guard*, renamed the *Alabamian* after only a few issues, was begun. Over the years, it has provided an outlet for student talent, opinion, and, of course, news.

May Day celebrations began, according to the *Alabamian*, in 1925, but there is ample evidence from photographs and activity calendars published in annuals that there were May Day observances as early as 1912. Perhaps the 1925 event was a revival of an earlier practice or newly produced under the aegis of the student government. Whenever it started, it grew to a memorable occasion, a cooperative effort of the student Senate and the departments of music and physical education that was more impor-

May Day in its Heyday

May Day was in its heyday in the 1930s. In addition to a May Queen (Dorothy Davis in the 1937 May Day), students selected a Best Citizen (Sarah Kyser is pictured next to Miss Davis). Members of the Dance Group performed and there were traditional Maypole dances. Some years there were elaborate pageants, even if it rained and had to be held indoors. In the scenes pictured here, the four classes are bringing offering to the Queen — seniors with mortar boards bedecked with flowers, juniors with a garlanded crook, sophomores with a decorated staff, and freshmen with bouquets.





Vivian Monk and Katherine Vickery were two of the vigorous, imaginative young faculty members who came to Montevallo in the 1920s. Miss Monk taught English and expression, directed plays, and assisted Ellen-Haven Gould in the production of plays. When students dedicated the 1926 yearbook to her, they said she was "a fulfilled dream of womanhood in its zenith." The yearbook was dedicated twice to Dr. Vickery, in 1943 and 1958. Students and even some faculty members regarded her with awe in her latter years at Alabama College, but this photograph — and the fact that she abetted in the creation of Crook Week in 1926 — proves that she had a sense of humor and a sense of fun.



Art taken from 1933 *Technala*

tant than College Night in those days. It was discontinued in 1944.

Elite Night, an occasion for recognizing student honors, was first presented in 1933 by the yearbook staff, but there had been feature sections in the *Technala* of beauties and what one might call titleholders (Mary Larkin was voted Biggest Talker in 1923; Addie Scarborough the Peppiest). In 1933 there was a pageant, *Tinkerbell and the Elves, or What Happens When Alabama College Goes Highbrow*.

Honors Day, to recognize academic achievement, was begun in 1935 with relatively modest fanfare to introduce new pledges of the five national honor societies on campus: Kappa Delta Pi, education honorary; Omicron Nu, home economics honorary; Delta Phi Alpha, German honorary; Zeta Phi Eta, speech honorary; and Pi Kappa Delta, debate honorary. The program was held in Palmer at 8 a.m., with speeches by President Carmichael, Dean Napier, and the presidents of the local societies.

Crook Week, surely one of the oddest college traditions ever dreamed up and carried on for decades, was started in the spring of 1926. At that time, there was great disparity in regulations for the various classes. Seniors had more privileges as far as hours kept, number of dates, rides in cars, and trips to town than underclassmen; juniors had more than sophomores, et cetera, down to the poor benighted freshmen who had few privileges indeed. It was decided, by a couple of seniors (Robbie Andrews and Hattie Lyman) and a young faculty member (Katherine Vickery, to the amazement of those who stood in awe of her in later years), that members of the junior class should be put through a test of sorts to determine their worthiness to become seniors.

They selected a symbol of seniordom — a crooked tree limb about four feet long; this limb, or Crook, was to be hidden somewhere on campus to be sought by juniors. The catch was that juniors were to be debased to the status of freshmen — or lower — while the search was on, and a host of regulations and activities were imposed on them to distract them from the search. In effect, it was a form of hazing, but a fun-loving one, often inventive and never mean-spirited. Frequently, special costumes and headgear made from easily obtained materials were required, some rather bizarre, to judge from memory and pictures in the annuals. After the Crook was found — hidden in ivy, under bricks, in a tree — Crook Court was held, with seniors in academic array; junior class members were found guilty (always), punishment was meted out and at last the juniors were declared worthy to become seniors. Crook Week died a slow death; few of the female juniors in 1956-57 wanted to participate (probably because of the indignities they foresaw before the men who were now in school); also, as time passed, distinctive regulations between classes became rare. And after all, it was a rather juvenile thing to do. Crook Week became Crook Day, and participation was voluntary. One remnant remained into the early '90s: Senior March. A senior woman was named March

Queen, and robed senior women descended unannounced on underclassmen late at night for a hazing ritual. One aspect has been lost: each senior selected one junior to be “hers,” particularly during Crook Week, but throughout the year as well. There were trips to the movie or out to eat, and special treats and kind acts — bonds of friendship that often lasted years after graduation.

Another odd, but pleasant, custom during this period was Pill Week. Names were drawn; the draw-er, if you will, was the “capsule” and the draw-ee, the “pill.” The pill would receive cryptic notes from the anonymous capsule, who dropped hints at identity, as well as small gifts — flowers, cookies, trinkets. Identities were revealed at a party at the end of the week. A writer for the 1937 *Technala* described the week as one “during which we all try hard to do something very nice for somebody very nicer.” It was another method of acquainting students with each other; for some years, it was organized by the Senate. As enrollment grew, other activities took its place.

Certain customs of this period, remembered with fondness by alumnae, centered around commencement, which was a protracted affair. There was a reception on Saturday; students descended the grand stairway into the lobby of Main — students in their loveliest gowns, of course — and were received by the governor of Alabama, the college president and his wife, and whatever other dignitaries were mustered for the occasion. On Sunday after the baccalaureate sermon, there was a vespers service; graduates in their caps and gowns singing by candlelight walked up the drive to Flowerhill, where they were greeted by the president. It was a beautiful ceremony by all accounts.

Clubs, some of them active since the early years of the school, were abolished in 1931 by vote of their members. Some of the clubs were organized for special interest groups (literature, music, art, and nature) and for entertainment. By 1931, most had outlived their original purposes, and there were a variety of other activities available for students. The YWCA, active almost since the opening of school, continued its importance in students’ lives. Other organizations, such as the Athletic Association or the English Club, as well as honor societies, were beginning to dominate club life.

In 1929, the College became part owner and operator, with the University of Alabama and Auburn, of a radio station, WAPI. The station broadcast a variety of



Art taken from 1928 *Technala*

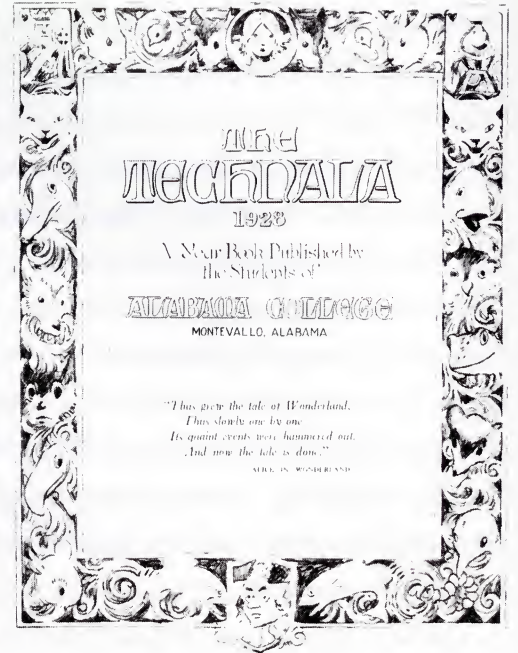
Alabama College, Auburn, and the University of Alabama jointly owned radio station WAPI from 1929 to 1961 and shared air time. Some programs from Montevallo were educational, but there was also music, news, and drama. Certain programs were picked up by Voice of America and broadcast worldwide.





(Above) The first dining hall on campus was on the ground floor of Main Dormitory, but by the late 1920s the student body had increased and more space was needed. By this time there were two dormitories in addition to Main — Hanson and Ramsay — on what was called the back campus. The “new” dining hall was built in 1929 to accommodate the upperclasses living there; it was built just behind Main, with the kitchen situated between the two dining halls serving both. In this photograph can be seen the tables set as they typically were for each meal. The water pitchers were joined by those for milk from the college’s own dairy. The supply of cloth napkins was renewed in the fall as each freshmen was asked to bring with her “six Indian head napkins, hemmed on all sides, 20 inches square, to be given to the food supervisor for the use of the student during the year.” A student kept her same seat and used the same napkin for a week.

(Above, Right) The Technala, the Alabama College yearbook, featured the whimsical in 1928 with its Alice in Wonderland theme.



programs until the early 1960s. Montevallo’s broadcasts included music provided by students and faculty (particularly by pianist M. Ziolkowski) and presentations by faculty

such as J.S. Ward, professor of German, and Eva Golson of the English Department. Radio plays, interviews, music, and educational programs filled the College’s allotted air times.

In 1923 — a sure sign of growing up — teachers moved out of the dormitory. A teacher still sat at the head of each table in the dining hall, but eventually this was discontinued also.

Students began publishing a literary magazine named the *Tower*. It became the principal outlet for stories, poems, essays, and art that had previously found homes in the yearbooks and newspaper.

There was a need paramount to the success of the College — accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 1924 the first application was made, but was denied because of the small size of the library, the low salary scale, and the short time the school had been a degree-granting institution. Remarkably, the very next year, in December of 1925, the Association granted accreditation. Dr. Carmichael said, “It is not only a recognition of the very excellent work which Alabama College is doing today, but is evidence of the high reputation which the institution has made for itself during the past years. Very seldom indeed is an institution admitted into this association with so brief a history as a four-year college as Alabama College had. It is a source, therefore, of special gratification that the institution has thus been honored.”

Anna Irvin

Anna Irvin came to Montevallo in 1920 as supervisor of food services. She had previously worked in food service at the University of Chicago, from which she had a degree in home economics. She retired in 1952, after having "warmed the hearts as well as satisfied the appetites of hundreds upon hundreds of students, teachers, and visitors, giving the college an outstanding reputation for good food and happy living." So said the Board of Trustees. Students appreciated "her unlimited ability to do great things efficiently, her sympathetic humor and her wonderful insight into human nature." She made Montevallo famous for its homemade ice cream and whole wheat bread.



Alabama College Brown Bread

Mix: 1 cup plain white flour
2 Tbsp. sugar
1 yeast pkg. thoroughly in bowl.
Add 1 cup hot water and mix well with wooden spoon.
Cover and place in a warm spot for about an hour.

Add: 2/3 cup bran flakes
1/2 cup honey
2 cups whole wheat flour
1 Tbsp. salt
1 cup warm water
1/2 cup oil
enough plain white flour to make a dough.

Turn out on floured board and knead 8 to 10 minutes.

Put back in same bowl; cover and let rise about 2 hours or until double in bulk. Knead again slightly and divide into two loaves. Place in well-greased bread pans, cover, and let rise for an hour or so until double in size. Heat oven to 375 degrees; place bread in oven and bake for 15 minutes. Reduce heat to 350 degrees and continue baking for 15 minutes. Turn out on cake racks; cover after brushing with margarine and cool.

(Adapted by Mrs. Lillian Ward of the English Department.)



Oliver Cromwell Carmichael

Oliver Cromwell Carmichael was among Alabama College's best known and most respected presidents. A Rhodes scholar, he was brought to Montevallo in 1922 by President Palmer to be dean of the faculty. He became chairman of the Million Dollar Drive, the school's first capital fund-raising campaign, which resulted in major construction projects. When Dr. Palmer died in early 1926, Carmichael was a popular choice as his successor. His vision for the school was for it to become one of the finest women's colleges in the nation, and to that end he hired a vigorous young faculty who had similar ambitions for Alabama College. As a result, outstanding students were attracted to the school, which began what many have called its "Golden Age." Dr. Carmichael left Montevallo in 1935 to become dean of the Graduate School at Vanderbilt University; in a short time he was made chancellor there. In 1946 he became the executive associate of the Carnegie Corporation, and in 1953 president of the University of Alabama.

Dr. Carmichael's announcement came at a poignant time; Dr. Palmer, whose energies and ambitions for the school had led to this proud moment, was dying. He had been in a Birmingham hospital for several weeks, and died on January 7, 1926, just a short time after the announcement.

Dr. Palmer's death had a profound effect on students' lives. The Palmers had been at Montevallo for so long — nineteen years — that it was almost impossible to think of the school without them. The 1926 *Technala* published a loving tribute to him; among the remarks: "When he came to Alabama Girls Industrial School, he found it an unknown, unimportant, meagerly equipped school..., like a rough and rustic girl.... He left Alabama College a four-year college, a member of the Southern Association, proud of her position among other colleges. The rustic girl grown into cultured womanhood with wisdom in her countenance faces the future with a sure and sturdy step because she follows a great leader." The *Technala* also included a tribute to Mrs. Palmer that year: "No one has ever been ... more jealous of the College's good name, more eager for its advancement, ... more concerned for the development of the students into true gentlewomen." Of the Palmers the editor (Anny May Skinner) said: "Our debt is a permanent one. We hope their affection for us will be lasting." That hope appears to have been fulfilled; Lulu Palmer, who came as a small child with her parents to Montevallo, went to college here (she was editor of the famed 1921 *Technala*, the historical number published for the 25th anniversary of the school), later taught here, and still speaks fondly of Montevallo. "It is by far the best college in Alabama if a person wants an education," she wrote recently.

Students knew whom they wanted to succeed Dr. Palmer: Oliver Cromwell Carmichael, dean of Alabama College since 1922 and acting president during Dr. Palmer's illness. They were so delighted when his election was announced that they formed a snake dance to downtown Montevallo.

Dr. Carmichael built on the foundation Dr. Palmer laid and led Alabama College into what some have called its "Golden Age." Several factors came into play to cause this development, but the principal one was Dr. Carmichael's leadership. For her history, *Alabama College, 1896-1969*, Dr. Lucille Griffith interviewed a

number of faculty from this period, and they spoke of that “intangible something more easily recognized than defined.... He gave the faculty a clearly defined vision and goal — to make Alabama College comparable to the best women’s colleges in the nation. ‘He gave us a vision of the importance of women in the modern world.’”

As dean and president, he employed a strong faculty, selecting men and women known for their scholarship and pioneering spirit. Among them were Ellen-Haven Gould and Walter Trumbauer.

Dramatic presentations had been prominent at the school since its beginning, from pantomimes and recitals by the elocution and oratory classes to scenes from plays produced by dramatic clubs to full-length plays. According to Barbara P. Patterson, whose thesis *Theatre at Montevallo, 1896-1973* for her master of arts degree at the University of Montevallo is the source of much of this material, the years before the mid-1920s were ones of experimentation. “The theatre,” Patterson says, “was emerging through a process of trial and error, and interest in courses and productions grew.” As a result, courses became more plentiful and faculty trained in theatre were hired.

One of these new faculty members in 1925 was Ellen-Haven Gould, with degrees from Coe College, Northwestern University, and the University of California. She created the Department of Speech, which maintained its practice of offering courses in speech improvement but added professional training in public speaking, oral interpretation, and theatre. She was assisted by Vivian Monk of the English Department; Patterson reports that these two women directed or supervised the directing of 13 plays in two years.

In 1926 Willilee Reaves (a 1925 alumna) and Walter Trumbauer joined the English Department, which had been combined off and on with Expression until a permanent separation in 1925. Trumbauer, though chairman of the English Department, was deeply interested in theatre and introduced courses that reflected that interest. Soon, Reaves and Trumbauer began teaching some of the speech courses as well as their regular English courses. Miss Reaves formed the Peter Pan Club for children, which evolved into the Children’s Theatre. One of those Peter Pan players recalls overhearing Miss Reaves call Dr. Trumbauer “Trummie,” and suspected at the time that there was romance in the air. There was, and after their marriage they became known to students and colleagues as Trummie and Mrs. Trummie.



Walter and Willilee Trumbauer led in the establishment and growth of college theatre until their retirements — his in the 1950s and hers in the 1960s. Trummie (sometimes spelled Trummy) and Mrs. Trummie, as they were affectionately known to students and colleagues, expected excellence and sometimes got it. Trummie inspired with an equal amount of fear and affection with his high standards. In addition to directing the college theatre, dispensing advice on College Night scripts and productions, teaching classes, and writing plays, Trummie established and administered the High School Drama Festival held on this campus for many years. When he retired in 1957, it was named in his honor. Mrs. Trummie became her husband’s official assistant in 1946 — though she held that position unofficially for years — and designed costumes, served as a dialogue/line coach and general intermediary between Trummie and students. She established a children’s group, the Peter Pan Club, in the 1920s which evolved into the Children’s Theatre.



Art taken from 1928 *Technala*

Basketball has been popular at Montevallo since the days of the Industrial School. Tennis, swimming, archery, volleyball, baseball — girls played them all, and in the 1930s they played hockey. This is the Upper Classmen Hockey Team of 1932-1933, Ammi Copeland, counselor.



College Night Tradition Well Established by '30s

By 1934, College Night had become one of the best-loved traditions at Alabama College. The pattern was well-established by then, and continued for some years: students did not choose which side they preferred — it was done by chance. One year you might be a Gold, the next year a Purple. The productions, held in Palmer Hall since 1930, included toasts (the first one was in 1919), songs, a “stunt” or comedy, and a more serious “impersonation,” which was often the recreation of a historical event, an adaptation from mythology, or the like. This pattern continued until 1950 when each side began producing one unified production incorporating music, dance, and plot.



(Above) Margaret Coley was Gold leader in 1934; Eleanor Rennie, assistant leader. The Gold stunt was “Animal Cracks Circus,” starring Aileen Holley as Minnie Mouse and Jessie Forrest as Mickey. The Gold impersonation was “The Golden Touch.” Maxine Couch and Jessie Forrest headed the Scenery Committee.

(Right) Purple leader in 1934 was Cherokee Shirley; assistant leader, Eunice Thomas. The side’s stunt that year was “Mickey Mouse Goes Purple,” starring Grace Wilson as Mickey and Ellie Ayres Burns as Minnie. Their impersonation was “The Building of the Taj Mahal.” The Purples won College Night that year.



The Trumbauers went to Europe for an extended honeymoon, and while there visited the Volksbühne in Berlin, which was considered to be one of the finest modern theatres of its day. As a result, Trumbauer patterned the stage and auditorium of the new Palmer Hall after this German theatre. For many years it was regarded as one of the finest in the Southeast and was often praised for its acoustics.

In 1929 Trumbauer resigned as chairman of the English Department to assume direction of the College Theatre; he became an associate with Miss Gould in transforming theatre at Montevallo and in influencing it throughout Alabama. Trumbauer established the High School Drama Festival, which was held on this campus for nearly 50 years. It had its beginnings in 1923 in Play Day, or Inter-High School Meet, which involved girls in sports, home economics, music, and dramatics; the meet was discontinued in 1941, but the Drama Festival continued until 1972, when the Alabama Speech and Theatre Association assumed responsibility for it. When Dr. Trumbauer retired in 1957, the festival was named in his honor.

Drama matured under Trumbauer's direction, but working for Trummie was not easy. He was demanding and slow with praise; often it took Mrs. Trummie's calm, gentle voice and manner to assuage feelings. Both Trumbauers were influential in improving College Night and devoted considerable time and energy to it.

Gammer Gurton's Needle, an early English play (circa 1550), was produced by the College Theatre on October 25-26, 1929. Directed by Walter Trumbauer and assisted by Ellen-Haven Gould, it was to be the first play to be performed in the new Palmer Hall auditorium. The building was not ready in time, so the play was presented in Reynolds Hall. Cast members were Leila Ford (Gammer Gurton), Mary L. Russell, Helen Mahler, Christine Purefoy, Louise White, Inamurl Smith, Annie Bledsoe, Evelyn Leak, Floyce Griffin, and Winnie M. Toomer. The character in striped trousers is Diccon the Bedlam, played by Florence Stevens.





(Above) Biology students examine slides under their microscopes. The tubes in this photograph are for the Bunsen burners they used.

(Right) The Nursery School, or Child Study Laboratory, was begun in 1931 as one of the first in Alabama. As a part of the home economics program, it serves as a laboratory for training and research as well as an excellent pre-kindergarten school for children from 2 1/2 to 5 years of age. Although it was begun by Dr. Dura-Louise Cockrell — Australian and holder of the Ph.D. from Yale — its best-known directors have been Ethel Bickham (1932-1965) and Kathryn Turner (1965-1989). Legend has it that a child should be registered at birth or earlier for admittance. In this photograph, home economics major Ruth Cobb enjoys a tea party with her charges. The year was 1938.



Trummie encouraged creative writing (he was a playwright himself), but could be brutally direct in criticizing a College Night script. The many students — speech majors and non-speech majors — who studied under Trummie and tried to please him were inspired to excel and gave a cult-like devotion to him and to his high standards.

There were other faculty members from this Golden Age whose influence extended far beyond the 1930s and the confines of the campus:

Katherine Vickery, psychology professor and mental health pioneer in Alabama, national leader of Kappa Delta Pi, educational leadership fraternity.

Hallie Farmer, political science professor and activist in penal reform, abolition of the poll tax, and other causes; she, Helen Keller, and Julia Tutwiler were the first inducted into the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame.

Thomas H. Napier, dean for twenty-six years, and wise counselor to students.

M.L. Orr, Sr. of the Department of Education, who oversaw the creation of Alabama's first Progressive Education Demonstration School.

Harrison D. LeBaron, director of the School of Music, who is credited with seeing that Montevallo's was the first in the state to receive full accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music.

Mieczyslaw Ziolkowski, eminent pianist and student of Paderewski, who delighted students and audiences throughout the South with his concerts and charm.

Josephine Eddy, Alabama's first clothing specialist in the State's Extension Service.

A. W. Vaughan, chairman of the English Department for more than twenty years during a period of growth and development; student accolades attest to his greatness as a teacher.

Abi Russell, librarian, whose book-selection talent during years of financial hardship ensured a strong basic collection for the College.

English teachers *Eva Golson*, *Leah Dennis*, *Eloise Meroney*, and *Sarah Puryear*, unforgettable women whose impact on that department and on students cannot be overstated.

Virginia Barnes, *Martha Allen*, and *Dawn Kennedy* of the Art Department, women whose strong leadership in the state and influence on students will long be remembered.

There were more, of course, and many who

(Top) Helen Blackiston was one of those faculty members whom students remember fondly and point to with pride as a true eccentric. She taught biology, but was known for her ubiquitous bicycle, which she pronounced to rhyme with "Michael." One story about her is of the day she met a girl, the daughter of a professor, with her bicycle, and asked the girl if she would invite several of her friends to accompany her on a bicycle ride and picnic the following Saturday. The girls did, and five or six of them rode away with Miss Blackiston down a lane outside Montevallo. They pedaled and pedaled until the girls were exhausted. Finally they begged the tireless Miss Blackiston to stop, as they were tired and hungry. "You'll be a lot hungrier before we stop," she replied. They never accepted an invitation to ride with her again.

(Bottom) A.C. Anderson was a popular professor of education for a number of years. When the 1938 yearbook was dedicated to him, students said that he "defines education as the process of learning more about living better, and the most highly educated man is the one who knows most about living best — and then lives up to and exemplifies his own definition." He could do more with a pat on the shoulder than most accomplish in a lifetime.

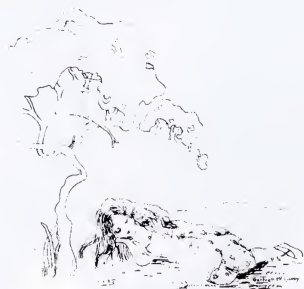




(Top) Tutwiler Dormitory was built during the Depression with federal WPA funds. For a good many years it was the dormitory for senior women. Three rooms — one each on the second, third, and fourth floors — were particularly desirable, as they had private bathrooms with tubs. They were commonly reserved for SGA office holders. Tut, as it is usually called, also has a spacious recreation area in the basement and a sun porch at the rear.

(Middle) Poet Carl Sandburg was among literary figures, lecturers, and artists who came to Montevallo during the 1930s.

(Bottom) A good many of Montevallo's brick streets and walks were laid during the Depression years, thanks to WPA funds, but some were started before that time. Here, bricks are being made by hand for Alabama College.



Art taken from 1928 *Technala*



stayed at Alabama College for a number of years fulfilling Dr. Carmichael's ambitions for the school. They endured the Depression years, when they were paid with scrip and the College's budget was cut forty percent. Griffith cites one of this group as remembering:

We were all proud of being a part of Alabama College. We had a great sense of loyalty to it. We not only were willing to work hard, we did work hard, to make the College an outstanding institution. We wanted every part of the program to succeed. We had outstanding cultural events, fine plays, musical programs and social functions which we supported, partly because they were outstanding and partly because we as members of the faculty assumed these obligations as a duty as well as a responsibility for the good of the College. We worked endless hours not only at our classes, trying new ideas and new techniques that would improve instruction, but most of us devoted great amounts of time to extracurricular activities, trying to make Alabama College the best in the South.

Oddly enough, one effect of the Depression was advantageous to Alabama College: the quality of students was especially high, since many talented young women enrolled at Montevallo rather than in more expensive private or out-of-state schools. Graduates during this difficult period were remarkably fortunate at finding jobs. They were successful, too: more students who received degrees in the late 1930s and early 1940s have been named Distinguished Alumnae by the National Alumni Association than for any other period.

In spite of financial constraints, cultural life on campus was rich. The list of lecturers and artists who came to Montevallo during the 1930s is impressive: poet and critic Louis Untermeyer, poet Carl Sandburg, historian Douglas Southall Freeman, Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins, Governor Nellie Taylor Ross, Ambassador Ruth B. Owen, dancer Ted Shawn, Metropolitan Opera star Gladys Swarthart, and actress Cornelia Otis Skinner.

When Dr. Carmichael left in 1935 to become Vanderbilt's dean of the Graduate School (and in two years, chancellor), students and faculty were grieved. There was a feeling that the new president, Arthur F. Harman, was a political appointee who would not have the same ambitions for the College that



(Above) Arthur F. Harman was the president of Alabama College from 1935 until 1947, serving those difficult years during the Depression and World War II. In spite of financial hardship, he took advantage of New Deal funds to build Comer, Tutwiler, and Bibb Graves; to expand the library; and to renovate Reynolds. It was WPA money and labor that laid many of the brick streets and walks. Dr. Harman was not just a builder, he was also a philosopher, poet, and lover of beauty. Mrs. Harman was a lover of beauty as well, and it is she with her love of gardens who transformed the president's home into Flowerhill. Dr. Harman must have loved the pecan trees that line the drive to Flowerhill, for one of his poems is "An Avenue of Trees — Reflections," whose first stanza is:

From rest and quietude,
My heart elate with morning joy,
I walk beneath an avenue of trees,
Stately bare, though buffeted to
nakedness
By bitter winds,
Stately green, with blankets of warm,
Spring earth
About their feet.



(Left) President Harman's concern for the beauty of the campus was equaled by that of Maurice Jones-Williams, whose titles were "electrician" and "engineer." In truth, Mr. Jones-Williams, a gentlemanly Welshman, was far more. For nearly 40 years he oversaw buildings and grounds at Montevallo. When the college hired the Olmsted Brothers (designers of New York's Central Park and the grounds of the Vanderbilts' Biltmore Estates) to make recommendations about a plan for Montevallo's campus, it was Mr. Jones-Williams' responsibility to carry them out. At Mr. Jones-Williams' death in 1945, Dr. Harman said of him: "The famed beauty of the college campus is his living and enduring monument."

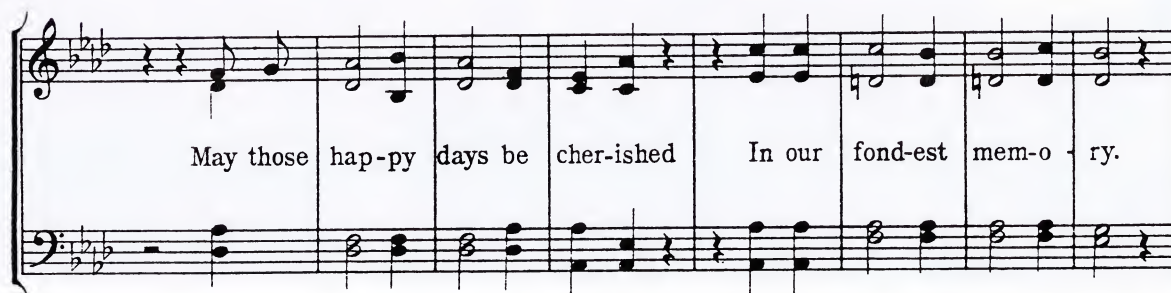
We Will Sing for Montevallo

Words by
Montevallo Students

Music Adapted



We will sing for Mon-te - val-lo Where ev-er we may be.



May those hap-py days be cher-ished In our fond-est mem-o - ry.



Where the pur-ple and gold are float-ing, Float-ing for our loy-al-



ty, We will sing for Mon-te - val-lo, And our pride shell ev - er be.

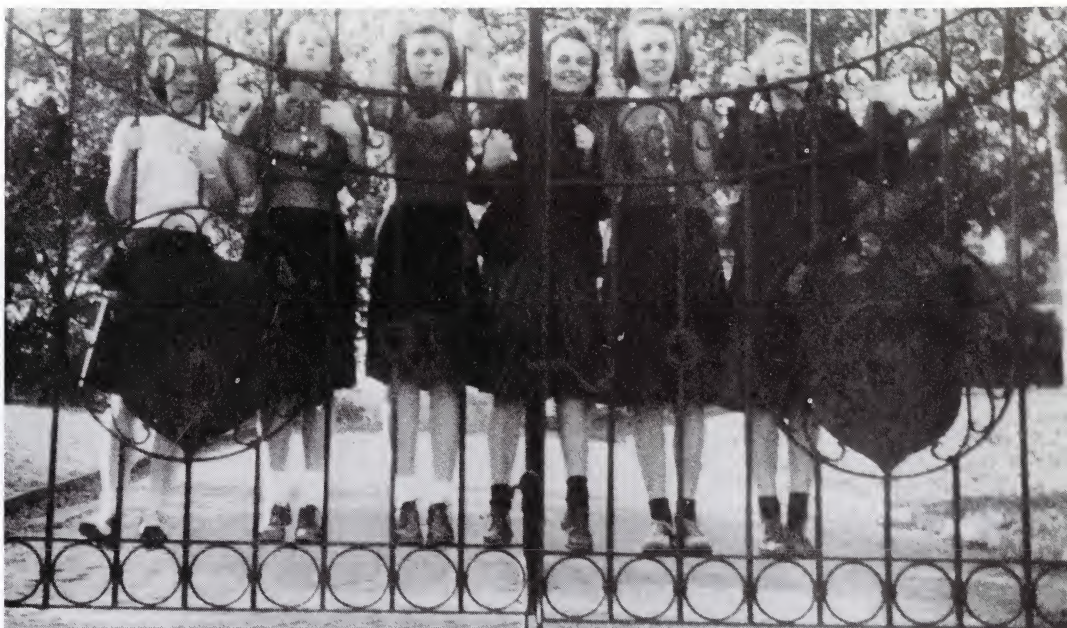
Drs. Palmer and Carmichael had had. But Dr. Harman had closely followed Montevallo's career, and his long service to education in Alabama as state superintendent of education, among other posts, proved to be beneficial. He was dedicated to keeping the quality high at Alabama College; his steady hand led the school through the rest of the Depression and World War II.

Several accomplishments can be credited to him; he was able to attract New Deal agencies to assist the College in construction projects — Comer Hall for classrooms, Tutwiler Dormitory, and Bibb Graves Hall for physical education, the brick streets, and other additions and improvements. There was also federal assistance for a project most dear to Dr. Harman's heart — landscaping. He believed that "by educating the mind in an environment of truth and beauty, the sordid side of life can finally be removed." Mrs. Harman was equally sensitive to a beautiful campus, and it is she who transformed the president's home into Flowerhill.

Another of Dr. Harman's legacies was the creation of the Dancy Lecture Series, which attracts eminent scholars to campus to this day. Unity Dandridge Dancy left a bequest to endow the Departments of "English, Literature, and Expression" at Alabama College and in 1939, the first lectures were given by historian Douglas Southall Freeman, followed two years later by art critic Lewis Mumford. Through the years, other outstanding lecturers for the series have been John Gassner, Joseph Campbell, Maynard Mack, Martin Esslin, Helen Vendler, and Theodore Ziolkowski.

Under the leadership of three presidents — Palmer, Carmichael, and Harman — Alabama College came into her own. The campus itself had grown, and academic and cultural programs were well established and respected. Montevallo had not only survived growing pains and the Depression, she had triumphed over them.

Then came World War II, and with it, influences that would have significant impact on the College.



(Top) These bobby-soxers of 1939 aren't really locked in, even though the rules were strict then. They are Sarah Dobson, Norma Robinson, Adeline McLendon, Helen Kent, Johnnie Carlisle, and Kathryn Jones. (Photo courtesy of J. Carlisle.)

(Bottom) Dance as performance art probably began at Montevallo in 1909 when folk dancing was added to the curriculum; dancers performed a short time later at the 1912 May Day celebration. A course in "aesthetic dancing" was offered in 1918 — the beginning of what would be called modern dance. Edith Saylor's class gave the school's first modern dance recital in 1930. Orchesis dance group, which gives two modern dance recitals each year, was formed in 1936. The appearance of dancers Ted Shawn and Martha Graham and others have helped keep interest in dance high at Montevallo.



CHAPTER 4

Alabama College

1941-1956

The *Alabamian*, October 9, 1942

Alabama College has gone military. Every citizen realized the vital need for cooperation to the utmost degree in the national defense program. With this fact in view, A.C. students feel the need of putting their college on a militaristic basis, in order to promote the outstanding defense issues. This need has resulted in the organization of the Alabama College Auxiliary Corps which is to be sponsored by the Physical Education Club.

After definite proof of qualification, a student may be inducted as a private into the Corps, which will be known as the AC-AC. A private has opportunities for advancement through the ranks of noncommissioned and commissioned officers. Emblems and awards will be received at the time of promotion. Everyone is encouraged to volunteer.

No, students were not put into uniform, but they were involved in a variety of war-related activities. In May of 1942 the *Alabamian* reported that after the threat of a polio epidemic, registration had been postponed in the fall; then 750 students “swung into the pace of eight o’clock classes, library practice, French vocabulary drills and all the other things that are college.... When the United States went to war December 8, Alabama College keyed up to a wartime pace.” There were first

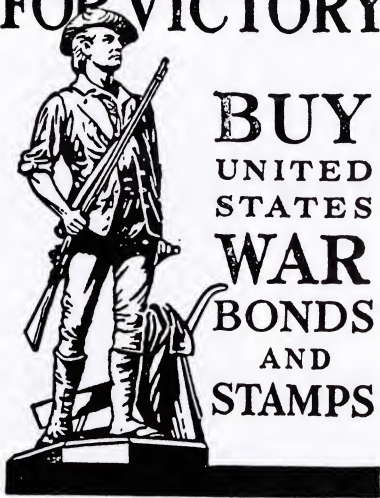
(Opposite) Frequent trips by bus were part of student life at Montevallo in the 1950s.

(Right) The coming of World War II affected the Alabama College campus, as it did the nation, with a variety of activities. The Alabama College Auxiliary Corps (AC-AC, pronounced "ack-ack") was formed by the Recreation Association to promote physical fitness, conservation, and cooperation with the war program. The war program included observance of blackouts and fire drills; the sale and purchase of war stamps and bonds; contributions to army camps of magazine subscriptions, lamps, curtains, and such; aiding in agricultural needs, such as picking cotton. There are no records of cotton-picking activities done by Montevallo students, but they were active in a number of other ways to help win the war.

(Bottom Right) Alabama College's first WAAC of World War II was Lieutenant Elizabeth Griffin. Also in the photograph are Martha Allen of the Art Department and Katherine Farrah of the Music Department.



FOR VICTORY



Art taken from 1943 Montage

(Opposite) The headline says it all as Alabama College students, along with the rest of the world, learn of America's declaration of war.

(Opposite Bottom) The YWCA sponsored first aid classes and demonstrations as part of the war effort.



aid classes, Red Cross activities, collection drives for various types of scrap (including eyeglass frames and stockings); an increasing number of speakers were militarily connected, as was entertainment (the Navy Band as well as other armed forces units played concerts). Students collected money for a jeep, food was rationed, gas was rationed — students were even admonished not to pick up the pecans on campus. “If we are tempted to collect these nuts for our own personal satisfaction, let us stop and consider the boys who are giving up food, clothes, shelter and home life for us.... Hoarding pecans which can be used for food in the dining room is certainly something of which any student should be deeply ashamed.”

If the paragraphs above sound lighthearted, life during World War II was not. There were privations, and families were often separated by war work; some faculty members, alumnae, and even a few students were drawn into the Red Cross or armed services. An alumna of these years recalls how one of her English teachers, Dr. A.W. Vaughan, helped bring things into perspective for her: “In teaching English literature to young women, he was also passing on a philosophy of life. He was cheerful, optimistic, and encouraging and I think gave us a long view of life at a time when events in the world were frightening and the future uncertain. I think he had a gift in his teaching that enabled him to see its relation to our lives. I still think of things he said that I wasn’t able to understand or even quite believe then.”

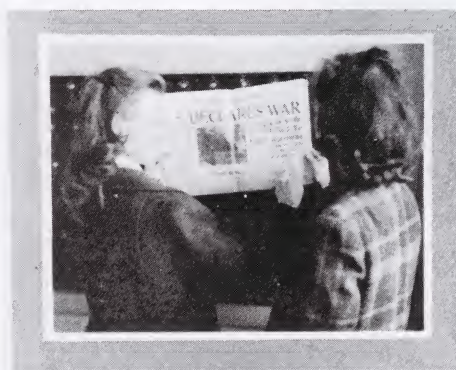
When the war was over, the GI Bill provided the opportunity for veterans to go to college, and so many did that enrollment soared at coeducational colleges. Alabama College even admitted a few men temporarily because of the crush at the University of Alabama and Auburn.

In the next few years, however, enrollment did not soar at Alabama College. It dropped. Postwar competition for students was intense: The University of Alabama and Auburn expanded their course offerings and dormitories for women; the teachers’ colleges began offering courses that had been the exclusive domain of Alabama College for years.

Dr. Harman retired in 1947, and in his place the Board of Trustees appointed a dynamic young man, John Tyler Caldwell, as presi-



Art taken from 1943 *Montage*



ALABAMA COLLEGE
Women
IN A WORLD *at* WAR

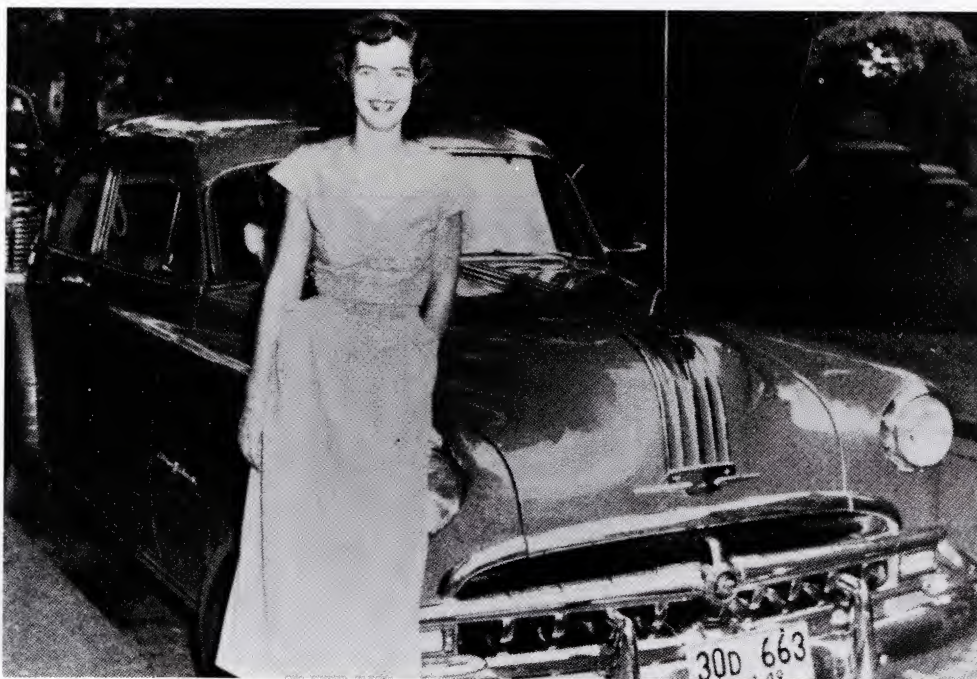
Art taken from 1942 *Montage*





(Above) John Tyler Caldwell, who became president of Alabama College in 1947, believed the college had a "forward look in its eye." Being Alabama College's president, he said, was his "first big administrative job."

(Below) In 1948, students were allowed to have cars on campus — but only with special permission, which was not given lightly.



dent. Dr. Caldwell, a political scientist with a Ph.D. from Princeton, came with ambitions for Alabama College. As a result, the school did not stagnate during his administration, but continued to earn the respect of those who knew it.

Caldwell's dedication to excellence took several paths. One that directly affected students was the introduction of the Honors Scholarship program, begun in 1948; eligible high school students were invited to the campus for a weekend of testing (and fun), with scholarships being offered to high scorers. The result was that Montevallo gained a number of quite capable and outstanding students, even some who did not win scholarships.

Another program established by Dr. Caldwell was the World Culture Series in which the whole college studied the arts, history, and customs of a country for a year.

Dr. Caldwell was always concerned with the quality of teaching, and to that end, initiated several steps to evaluate faculty. One was to drop in on classrooms unexpectedly to observe, delighting some teachers, horrifying others. Another method horrified most faculty — student evaluation, a practice common today, but dropped quickly at that time.

Some things changed — there was no more Pill Week, no more May Day after 1944, seniors could have cars on campus after 1948, regulations concerning dates and trips to town were eased somewhat. But for the most part, in spite of dropping enrollment, life for students at Alabama College, the State College for Women, changed little.

Founders Day, Honors Day, Citizenship Day, and commencement exercises saw girls in their traditional white; College Night, Crook Week, and Elite Night

flourished; the newspaper and annual were active; the *Tower* literary journal, sporadic; the YWCA continued to sponsor step sings, programs for new students, parties, and religious observances, including vespers. Students were housed in four dormitories — freshmen rattled around in Main, sophomores in Hanson, juniors in Ramsay, seniors in Tutwiler, where three treasured private bathrooms were allotted to SGA leaders.

Sports continued to be an integral part of college life, though in-



(Above) Montevallo's oldest tradition is Founders Day on October 12, celebrated annually since that day in 1896. In 1942, the tradition was enhanced by a ceremony still observed — one in which seniors are awarded their academic regalia. This photograph was made of an academic procession on Founders Day 1944.



(Left) This was Alabama College's last dance around the maypole on May Day 1944. Louise Lovelady was May Queen and Annie Laurie Boggs, Best Citizen. The theme for the pageant that year was the United Nations, and music and dance reflected the international theme. Shortage of materials and other wartime conditions contributed to the decision to stop the observance of May Day.





(Above) The YWCA conducted step sings that were often held on the steps in front of Main Hall. They were held inside on Main's grand staircase if there was bad weather. A perennial favorite was "We Will Sing for Montevallo."



(Above) It is Crook Week 1943 and juniors Julia Vernon, Mary Helen Warren, and Sara Louise Yeargin are giving a music recital as part of their duties for the week. Begun in 1926 as a ritual in which juniors must prove themselves worthy of becoming seniors (by finding the Crook), the days were filled with antics and good-natured fun.



(Left) The Crook was kept in its case in the lobby of the senior dormitory, Tutwiler, during the 1940s and 1950s. In spite of precautions, juniors often managed to spirit it away, but it always reappeared in time for Crook Week each spring. It was then hidden somewhere on campus, and juniors began days of bizarre activities intended to keep them from looking for this symbol of seniordom. Crook Week is no longer observed, but the Crook, a varnished tree limb, is in its case in the Alumni Office in Reynolds Hall.



(Above) A man-made lake was developed on college property in the late 1940s and early 1950s. The State Department of Conservation excavated the area, built a dam and spillway, and stocked it with fish. Varying reports give the size from 26 to 28 acres. It has been used for recreation as well as for classes in canoeing and casting. Canoeing class requirements included swamping the canoe, upending it, swimming it to the bank and emptying it of water by flipping it over one's head.

(Right) The Physical Education Department started a program in the 1950s to train staff for summer camps. In the summer of 1954, when this photograph was taken, Alabama College students were employed in camps in the U.S. in states stretching from Maine to Texas. Students learning camping techniques are Tibby Jackson, Stearley Meador, Dot Smith, Carolyn Barton, Gail Evans, and Virginia Dixon. (Photo courtesy of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance, and Safety).





(Above) A camp house was built near the college dairy on a wooded hillside in 1928, and in the spring of 1929 was ready for weekend camping. Financed primarily by the student Athletic Board, it had a large living room with a fireplace, a sleeping porch, kitchen, and bathroom. It was still enjoyed in the 1950s, as illustrated by these girls. They are, from left to right, Sue Baughn, unidentified, Martha Fulton, and B.Z. Douthit. (Photo courtesy of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, Dance, and Safety.)



The Plaza Grill on Montevallo's Main Street was a favorite place to go for that special dinner or just a hamburger before the movie, as these girls seem to be doing in 1956. The restaurant was operated by the Rotenberry family at the time this picture was made (and for some years thereafter). Julia Rotenberry, who was a librarian at Alabama College, was known for her homemade pies. Her husband Bill would allow students to run up tabs.



(Above) Off-campus entertainment was scarce in the 1940s and 1950s if you didn't have a car. A favorite place to go for a "picture show" and some popcorn was the Strand on Main Street. (Photograph courtesy of T.E. Watson.)

(Right) The Madwoman of Chaillot was a 1951 College Theatre production directed by Walter H. Trumbauer. Pictured here are Sue Dobbins, Barbara Searcy, Jane Odom, and Betty Jo Benton.

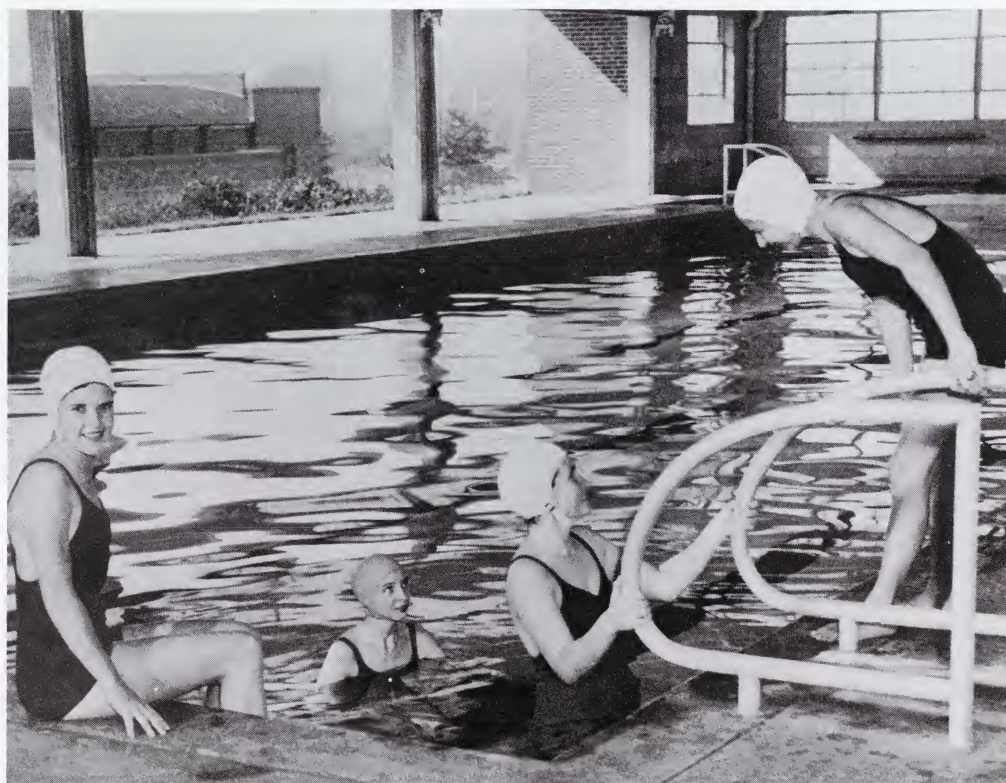


tercollegiate sports were not played; it was during this period that the new indoor-outdoor swimming pool was built and the college lake was created. The Camp House was a popular weekend spot, as were Davis Falls and Falling Rock.

Concerts and lectures, required convocations in Palmer Hall, recitals, plays — as in earlier years, most entertainment was confined to the campus, but trips to downtown Montevallo were more frequent, especially to the Plaza Grill to eat or to the Strand for a movie. There was even the occasional foray to Birmingham or to Twin Oaks, a favorite restaurant near Calera.

There were memorable teachers from this period, of course, many who had been at Montevallo for some years. To those names can be added:

Maxinee Couch Davis, an alumna of 1933, who began her teaching career in the Music Department in 1940 and was one of those who took leave to serve in the Red Cross. At the end of World War II, she resumed her duties at Montevallo and became one of the most beloved and respected professors and campus leaders the school has known. Her official retirement was in 1978, but she continued to teach part-time and to work in the music library for



(Above) A new indoor swimming pool replaced the old outdoor pool students had financed in 1917. Designed by Dr. Margaret McCall, chairman of the Physical Education Department from 1937 to 1956, it featured the latest in design and engineering that the early 1950s could offer. Aluminum doors roll up to connect the pool deck with a sun deck. The girls pictured here are wearing the hated, unflattering regulation wool bathing suits.



The 1956 Purple production, *Marriage is for the Birds*, featured, left to right, Jan Sabine, Patty Talley, Shirley Shepard, Rebecca Gantt, Jennie Cotney, and Polly Holliday. The Purples, led by Vera Stevens and Meg Meadows, won College Night that year.



Backstage College Night workers wore sweatshirts denoting their crafts and the "uniform" for such crews — white duck trousers, which were not allowed on front campus (defined as "the area bounded by the fronts of Palmer, Main, and Calkins"). White ducks, jeans, and shorts were considered "unconventional attire," according to the student handbook. These 1956 Golds are Barbara Barnett, Jane Rice, unidentified, and Sandra Ward. (Photo courtesy of Sandra W. Lott.)



(Above) The influence these English professors had on students and on the high quality of education at Alabama College was profound. Standing are Sarah Puryear and Eva Golson; seated are Eloise Meroney, Lillian Ward, and A. W. Vaughan. (Photo courtesy of Margaret Harrell Hester.)

(Right) Thomas H. Napier was dean of Alabama College from 1926 to 1952. He taught classes in psychology, thus following his own advice to administrators to keep in close touch with the classroom. Students had great fondness and respect for Dr. Napier, citing his kindness and understanding time after time. They dedicated the yearbook twice to him, in 1928 and 1952, and College Night in 1944.



and instilling in them a curiosity to seek for the unknown."

Sara Ruth Morgan, whose career at Montevallo began in the 1940s in what was the Department of Secretarial Science and continued through the establishment of the College of Business. Recognizing the need for professional growth, she aug-

several years. The music building is named for her.

Lucille Griffith, who joined the history faculty in 1946. Even after her retirement in 1973, she continued scholarly pursuits and committee work until poor health slowed her activities. She published widely, but will be best remembered locally for her history, *Alabama College, 1896-1969*. She died in 1993. An alumna recalls, "I resented having to take notes in her classes — I just wanted to listen and absorb all the fascinating things she told us."

Margaret McCall, chairman of the Department of Physical Education from 1937 until her death in 1956. She was a leader in state, regional, and national professional associations. In addition to innovative curricular developments, she was responsible for the design of the indoor-outdoor swimming pool, the first of its kind in Alabama. The pool was named for her in 1959.

Bernice Finger, also in the Department of Physical Education, beloved for her patience and encouragement of students as well as for her professionalism and belief in lifelong health and recreation. A respected leader and gentlewoman, her influence was felt throughout the campus and the region.

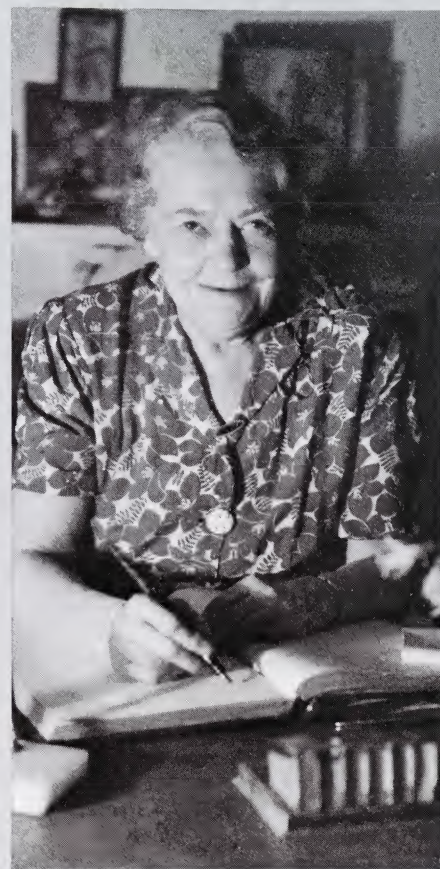
Paul Bailey, a favorite, not only with biology and physical education majors, but also with the English, music, history, and home economics students who appreciated his gentle manner and effective teaching. Students said of him when he received the dedication of the *Montage*, "a brilliant teacher, inspiring each of his students to seek the study of the sciences,



(Above) The physical education faculty in 1946-1947 were (standing) Bernice Finger, Margaret McCall, Edythe Saylor; (seated) Eleanor Foreman, Cordelia Lundquist, and Mildred Deason.

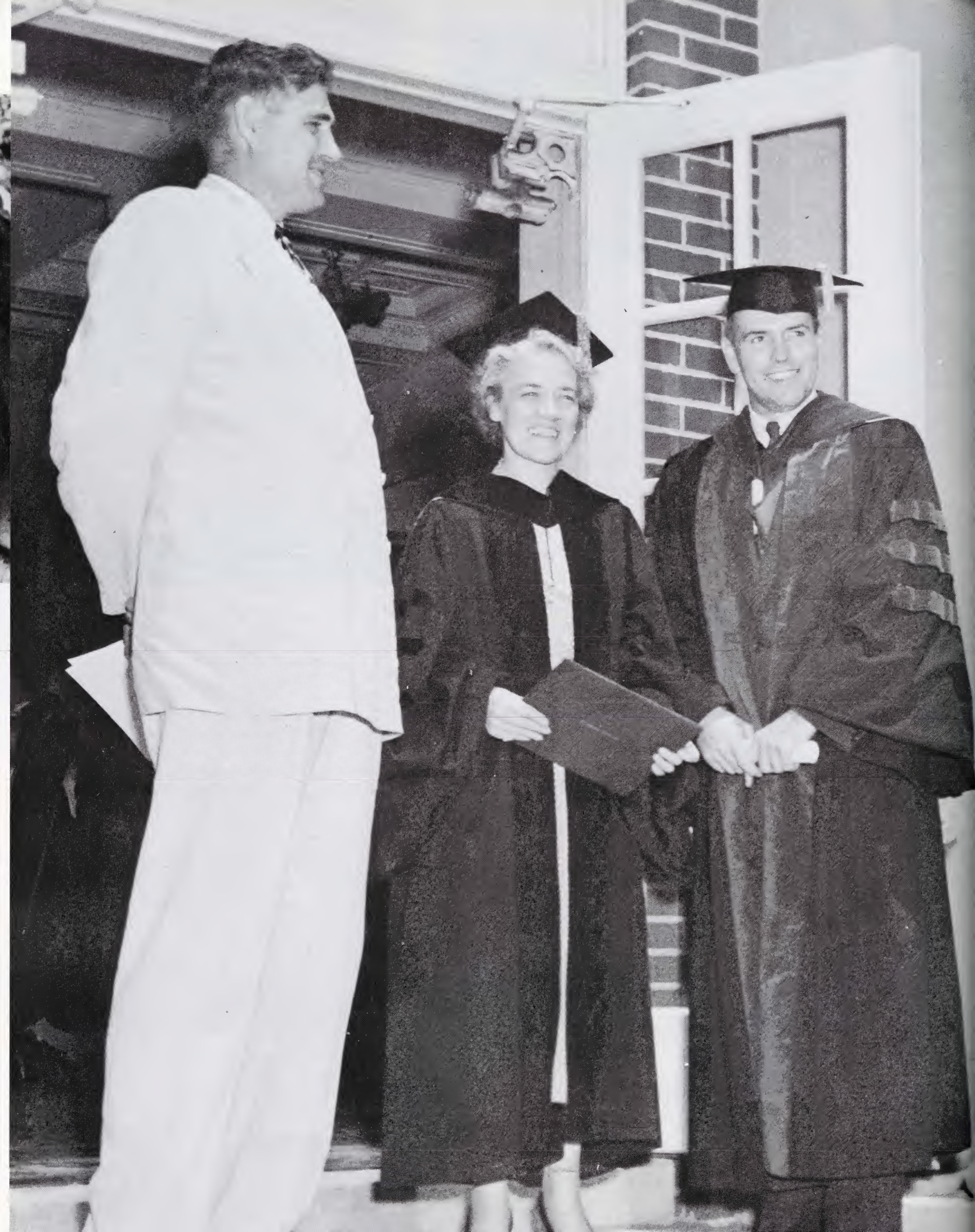


(Left) "Mr. Z," everybody called him — but his real name was Mieczyslaw Ziolkowski. A brilliant pianist who studied under Paderewski, Mr. Z joined the music faculty at Alabama College in 1929, where he stayed for more than 30 years. He delighted students with his expertise as a teacher, audiences with his expertise at the keyboard, and colleagues with his colorful personality. His presence attracted students "in increasing numbers from the Southeast and the Eastern Seaboard to study with him," according to Prince Dorrough's doctoral dissertation on the history of the Music Department at Montevallo.



Willena Peck

Willena Peck was a rarity in the early 20th century — a physician who was also a woman. A 1900 graduate of Women's Medical College in Baltimore, she came to Montevallo in 1915 as a resident physician at the college, where she remained until her retirement in 1952. She had hundreds of admirers among students, faculty, and members of the medical community. There were three principles in her practice to which she adhered: to treat routine illnesses and injuries of the students, to contain occasional epidemics on campus, and to practice preventive medicine. Her warm and open manner endeared her, while her professional competence earned respect. Students liked to claim that she dispensed "Peck's Pink Pills for Pale People."



mented her early degrees with that of doctor of jurisprudence; she was the recipient of a Fulbright-Hays fellowship and a Republic Steel fellowship. Her students looked up to her as a model of professionalism. Before her retirement in 1980, she became the school's first Equal Opportunity coordinator. Citing the talents of this accomplished woman, alumni successfully petitioned the Board of Trustees to name the College of Business building for her.

Laura Wright, chairman of the Speech Department, and *Vivian Roe*, clinician, who came to Alabama College in the 1950s, and between them established a residential speech and hearing clinic, the first of its kind in the state.

John B. Walters, who served the College in several capacities, first as head of the Social Science Department, then as acting dean of men after coeducation, and as dean of the College. When Alabama College became the University of Montevallo, his title was changed to dean of the College of Liberal Arts. A colleague called him the ideal "gentleman and scholar," as indeed he was. As a teacher-administrator, he held positions of leadership during challenging times.

Who can forget these memorable people or the many others who graced classrooms, playing fields, laboratories, concert halls? Some are remembered for their teaching effectiveness, some for wise counsel, and some for their eccentricities.

Colleges are notorious for their eccentrics, and sometimes pride themselves on their habits. Alabama College had its share (and probably still has); alumni and colleagues still talk about Miss Blackiston and her bicycle; Dr. Vickery and her dog Charcoal, who accompanied her everywhere; Trummie with his jaunty cap and gruff demeanor; and Miss Golson with her erudition and a "fascinator" on her head to ward off drafts. One of Montevallo's most eccentric was author Robert Payne, who was hired sight unseen to chair the English Department in 1949. Even the manner of his hiring was out of the ordinary — letters to his home in England, a reply from Paris saying that he would let the College know his answer when he returned from Persia. Mr. Payne accepted, and a date was arranged for his arrival.

In a taped memoir recorded for the English Department a few months before his death in 1995, Dr. Caldwell recalled the day he went to pick up Mr. Payne at the Birmingham airport:

Oh, my goodness he looked like somebody just out of the desert, maybe been riding a camel. He had on a leather hat with a kind of a string that hung beneath his chin, clothes that were very disheveled, and not at all suitable for reporting to a job in an American university. On the way into town in Birmingham, I knew we had a meeting of the Rotary Club



(Above) Author and English professor Robert Payne often met his classes outdoors or on the loafing porch which used to be at the rear of Reynolds Hall. In a 1949 letter to a friend he described the students as "atrociously beautiful;" of Montevallo he said, "The world is somewhere else." Payne, who had friends in literary, film, and dramatic circles throughout the U.S., wrote and shot a movie on campus. Although the film never garnered much interest beyond the Birmingham area, Payne's friend John Houseman — then a producer at MGM — liked it and gave Payne advice on editing it. The movie starred Alabama College students Barbara Ann Baker as the title character "Jeanie," Trudy Kiesewetter, Winifred Larmore, Beverly Vawter, and Barbara Argairo.

(Opposite) Maine Senator Margaret Chase Smith was the speaker and recipient of an honorary degree at the 1949 commencement. With her are Alabama Governor Jim Folsom and President John Caldwell.

there and I said, "Mr. Payne, would you like to go to Rotary Club with me and I can introduce you to your first Alabamians?" "God, no," he said. I could tell he was not the Rotary type.

Nor was he *any* sort of type Montevallo had seen. He taught classes outdoors or on the loafing porch behind Reynolds; he demonstrated the structure of the novel by playing Bach fugues in class; he made a movie featuring students; he founded a short-lived literary journal, *Montevallo Review*, which featured such writers as e.e. cummings, Muriel Rukeyser, and Alabama College's own faculty and students.

Mr. Payne left Alabama College in 1954 to continue his writing career (which had not slowed down during his time in Montevallo). In 1952, President Caldwell left, with fond regret, for the presidency of the University of Arkansas. In spite of this young president's vitality and innovative ideas, enrollment had continued to decline, though the school's reputation remained high. In a letter to the alumnae he said, "There is no doubt in my mind that I have learned a great deal. What I have contributed is doubtful. At least I gave the College my best effort, honestly and lovingly. In return, I have the treasure of being able to remember five superb years fully lived."

The next president of Alabama College was Dr. Franz E. Lund, a historian and dean at Florence State College (now the University of North Alabama). Where Dr.

Formal receptions were held several times a year in the 1940s and 1950s, but this one was special, as it was held in connection with the inauguration of Franz Edward Lund, the college's seventh president. With him in the receiving line are Mrs. Lund and Alice Jane White, SGA president in 1953-1954. They are greeting students Katherine Stuart, Edna Jackson, and Mary Gillam. Dr. Lund was president when the decision was made to make Alabama College coeducational.





Caldwell was fire and energy, Dr. Lund was a philosopher and visionary. Colleagues and alumnae recall his fondness for the philosopher/poet George Santayana, whom he often quoted on public occasions.

A significant development during Dr. Lund's administration was that of the graduate program. The need for one had been foreseen as early as Dr. Carmichael's presidency in the 1930s, and by the 1950s was evident. It was noted that increasing numbers of school systems in Alabama were beginning to employ teachers with master's degrees, and the University of Alabama and Auburn University were the only institutions in the state offering such programs. Dr. M.L. Orr, chairman of the Education Department and director of the summer school, spearheaded the movement toward graduate education; Dr. Charles Gormley, professor of education, chaired the committee to plan the program. After two years of preparation, a graduate program in elementary education was begun in the summer of 1955. The initial *Bulletin* stated:

The distinctive characteristics of this institution suggest a graduate program of carefully limited size and scope, in which a high standard is

Alabama College laboratories may not have been equipped on a par with the finest research labs of the day, but students were well-trained. Earners of bachelor's degrees in biology from Montevallo had no trouble getting jobs at places such as the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta or Southern Research in Birmingham. An alumna of the 1950s reported, "The lack of up-to-date equipment actually worked to our advantage at times. We learned to improvise, and when we started working, we already knew how to use our ingenuity to get things done."



Hallie Farmer, shown speaking to two Alabama College students, chaired the Social Sciences Department from 1927 to 1956, and was one of the imaginative young faculty members attracted to Alabama College by President Carmichael. An activist in a number of causes, she led statewide drives for prison reform, jury service for women, and abolition of the poll tax. She urged her students to be active participants in public life. When the Alabama Women's Hall of Fame was formed, she, Helen Keller, and Julia Tutwiler were the first to be inducted. In recent years an endowed lectureship has been established in her name at the University of Montevallo.

consistently maintained. These criteria have governed the initial organization of the program and they will continue to guide its development. It is assumed that applicants for the master's degree ought to be potential masters of their craft.

In the twenty years since this modest step, the graduate program has grown until it now offers five degrees in sixteen different subjects, as well as the educational specialist degree and AA teacher certification in seven areas.

Dr. Lund, and Dr. Caldwell before him, tried to find solutions to the problem of declining enrollment in a variety of ways: expanding the curriculum to offer training to medi-

cal and dental technicians (later dropped) and to "speech correctionists," improving the program in psychology, enlarging the calendar of special events, and intensifying recruitment efforts.

The faculty were aware of the situation, and did whatever they could to help solve the problem. Even Robert Payne. Dr. Caldwell loved to tell about an incident that carried Mr. Payne's fame to all corners of the campus and beyond. According to Dr. Caldwell:

One morning I was sitting at my desk and he burst into the office. He passed by Mrs. Ratliff, all excited, and he came into my office and said, "Dr. Caldwell, I have a marvelous suggestion to make to you, I know exactly what this college needs." And he drew himself up — he wasn't a tall man, but he drew himself up — and he took a step forward toward my desk and he leaned over right in my face and said, "Peacocks." Well, sir, you could have floored me. I never had thought about peacocks. To tell you the truth, he was dead right.

Alabama College never got the peacocks. And even if it had, they might not have had an appreciable effect on enrollment, which dropped from 902 in 1939-1940 to 487 in 1954-1955. The outlook for the College was grim.

Dr. Lund, in a lengthy report to the Board of Trustees in 1955, reviewed the

past role of Alabama College, giving evidence that "in its present location and within the circumstances which now prevail between institutions of higher learning in Alabama [Montevallo] has a diminishing future as a college designed exclusively for women." The faculty-student ratio was 1:8, the lowest in the state; the legislative appropriation per student was the highest. "Legislative support for Alabama College is already sentimental, in many cases, personal," Lund said. Change was imperative.

He dismissed curtailment of the instructional program, as that would affect quality and eventually lead to a further decrease in enrollment. Considering the trend throughout the state and nation toward greater demand for higher education for men and women, the most sensible solution would be coeducation. There were two primary considerations, Lund said, to be addressed before this major step: first, "to consider the specific role or purpose in the State which Alabama College would serve;" second, to secure the full support of the Governor and the Legislature. "It is of paramount importance that the College should avoid the appearance of simply drifting into coeducation...; it would be a tragic mistake simply to admit a few local boys as day students... or to admit men on sufferance.... It must be on the basis of a firm and enthusiastic agreement... with the full support of public opinion, our alumnae, the Governor, and the Legislature."

The response to the first consideration, the role of the College, was this: "The aim of Alabama College would be to serve both men and women as a college of liberal arts." The second, public and political support, was assured. Lund asked the Board of Trustees to authorize him and the faculty to make all necessary preparations for new or amended courses of study, and for modifications to the physical plant. The Trustees did so authorize.

At an emotion-filled meeting on October 13, 1955, the day after Founders Day, Dr. Lund presented the case to the faculty. At the end of his presentation, Dr. Hallie Farmer, who had been more active in women's causes than anyone else present, moved that "this faculty go on record pledging full support to President Lund in any plans... to become a coeducational liberal arts college." It was seconded by English professor Eva Golson. That these two women — one symbolizing all that was liberal in women's issues, the other all that was traditional — should endorse the plan dramatically altering the College's future, insured its unanimous support from their colleagues.

Dr. Lund and SGA President Edna Jackson presented the plan to students at a special convocation in Palmer Hall. They, too, gave their support. The Alumnae Association, after a motion by Willilee Reaves Trumbauer, Class of 1925 and long-time faculty member, approved.

On January 17, 1956, the Legislature passed a bill enabling Alabama College to admit men.



Members of Lambda Sigma Pi, women's leadership honorary, in 1956: first row, Carol Bailey, Dot Smith, Dottie Cullars; second row, Sue Howe, Marian Taylor, Mary Frances Tipton; third row, Barbara Benton, Ann Kimbrough, Geneva Bryant, and Sandra Hall.



(Above) The old Tea House, operated by the YWCA until 1947, was the only place on campus for soft drinks, snacks, and supplies. By the time this picture was taken in 1954, it was operated by the college and had a separate room for tables, the juke box, and a small area for dancing. It occupied the east wing of Reynolds until the student union, Farmer Hall, was opened in 1964.

(Right) These chickens are on their way to the frying pan. Home economics students were taught the "broomstick method" of slaughter.





(Above) Enjoying their costumes and refreshments at a senior-sophomore Christmas party in 1955 are Mary Louise Rice, Jo Anne Dunn, Wiladele Nixon, Jo Ann Littrell, Sherie Randall, Vera Stevens, Mary Ann Peters, Sue Thomas, and Edna Jackson.



(Left) For many years, it was the responsibility of the Senate to post flags in strategic spots about the campus as notifications of convocations, which were required. Gold flags denoted student body meetings, and purple flags, convocations and "administrative assemblies."



CHAPTER 5

Alabama College, State College of Liberal Arts 1956-1969

Birmingham Post-Herald, October 31, 1955

Men For Montevallo

One of the features of our Twentieth Century civilization has been the steady movement of women into fields hitherto regarded as the exclusive property of men.

But here in Alabama this is soon expected to be reversed in one case at least. That is at Alabama College where trustees have voted to turn the school, a women's college since its establishment 59 years ago, into a co-educational, liberal arts college.

While there will be some objection to this, we feel that it is a worthwhile change and one that should benefit both the college and the state.

Enrollments at state-supported colleges have increased greatly. Many of these state universities are bursting at the seams. Auburn, for example, does not have living quarters for all students who want to enroll there. The University of Alabama is crowded.

Building up of the smaller colleges will help give relief to the larger schools. And, in many cases, the smaller schools, with closer relationships between faculty and students, will provide better education.

That's the broad, educational view of the situation.

(Opposite) Palmer Hall was the backdrop for a group photograph of the 1959-1960 Student Government Association.



In addition we imagine that there are many girls at Alabama College who take a personal view of the change.

Boys on the campus. What a break.

Now watch the enrollment soar.

It did soar, but not right away. About fifty men enrolled in the fall of 1956 (they were preceded by two day students, Talmadge Johnson and Kenneth Holcombe in the spring of that year), thirty-five living in, of all places, the west wing of Main Dormitory, which was temporarily walled off. It seems ironic that the very wing that housed the first women in 1897 should house the first men sixty years later. Napier Hall was ready for occupancy by the fall of 1957 and was the envy of women living in the four older buildings. Napier, you see, was air-conditioned.

For those women in the upper classes, the introduction of men seemed a mixed blessing. Most of them had chosen Alabama College because it was a women's college where they had opportunities they might not have experienced at a coeducational school. Leadership, for one. They were able, through student government and other campus organizations, to develop their skills in planning and directing their actions. In theatre and College Night, they built and painted their own sets; they practiced ingenuity and learned self-reliance. In the opinions of some, they formed closer bonds of friendship with each other than they might have if there had been daily encounters with men.

One concern the women had was the effect coeducation would have on the quality of education at Montevallo. What boy would want to come to a school where he was outnumbered ten to one? Would the school get Auburn's and Alabama's rejects? They shouldn't have worried — the faculty and administration were too concerned for the reputation of Alabama College to accept unqualified students.

A knotty problem, which was not solved right away, was student government. Toward the end of the 1955-56 school year, the SGA handbook was revised for the



These men weren't bused in from Pensacola, Selma, or Marion for dances as they had been when Alabama College was an all-girl school. These were Montevallo's own boys, bless 'em.

(Opposite) Barbara Walker, Shirley Stabler, and Gibbs Daniel, residents of Tutwiler, watch as Darroll Pharris and Bob Murray put up the sign at the new dormitory for men.



(Above) The Sigma social club became a national fraternity in 1967 — Theta Sigma Chi. One of their projects was to adorn the campus with massive rocks in their honor. Bob Rollins, pledge master in 1967-1968, oversees the scrubbing of the third Sigma rock.

(Right) Forerunners of fraternities were men's social clubs — Deltas, Meisters, and Sigmas. These are Deltas Gavin Hunter, Ronald Fisher, and Robert "Bubba" Mayes in a performance at Skit Night 1963-1964.



new year, as was customary. There was the constitution covering executive, legislative, and judiciary functions, elections, and such; there were administrative regulations covering topics such as withdrawal, marriage, dining room regulations, recreational policies, and a number of regulations for women about dating, riding in cars, signing out, and dress (including exactly where, and sometimes when, shorts or pants could be worn).

In the handbook for 1956-57, the first year male students would be on campus, there was this statement: "Residential and social regulations for men students will be posted in the hall of residence." No record was found as to what these regulations were, but they must have been simi-

lar to those in the next handbook – no alcohol, no drunkenness, no firearms in buildings, no gambling, no abetting a “violation of the college regulations concerning women.” And this: “Male students should conduct themselves as gentlemen at all times. (Any student whose language is consistently indecent, whose conduct is rude or lacking in politeness, whose dress reflects discredit upon the high traditions of this college, or who in any other manner habitually declines to cooperate in the maintenance of a wholesome college life, may be requested to withdraw from the college.)”

Interestingly enough, although women were also banned from drinking, there is no mention of prohibition of gambling or firearms. Therefore, there were double standards for men and women, many of which would endure for years. In a very short time, efforts were made to balance certain aspects of student government: for a time, Napier, the only men’s dormitory, had representatives to the Senate; and for a few years there were three courts, one each for women and men and one joint court.

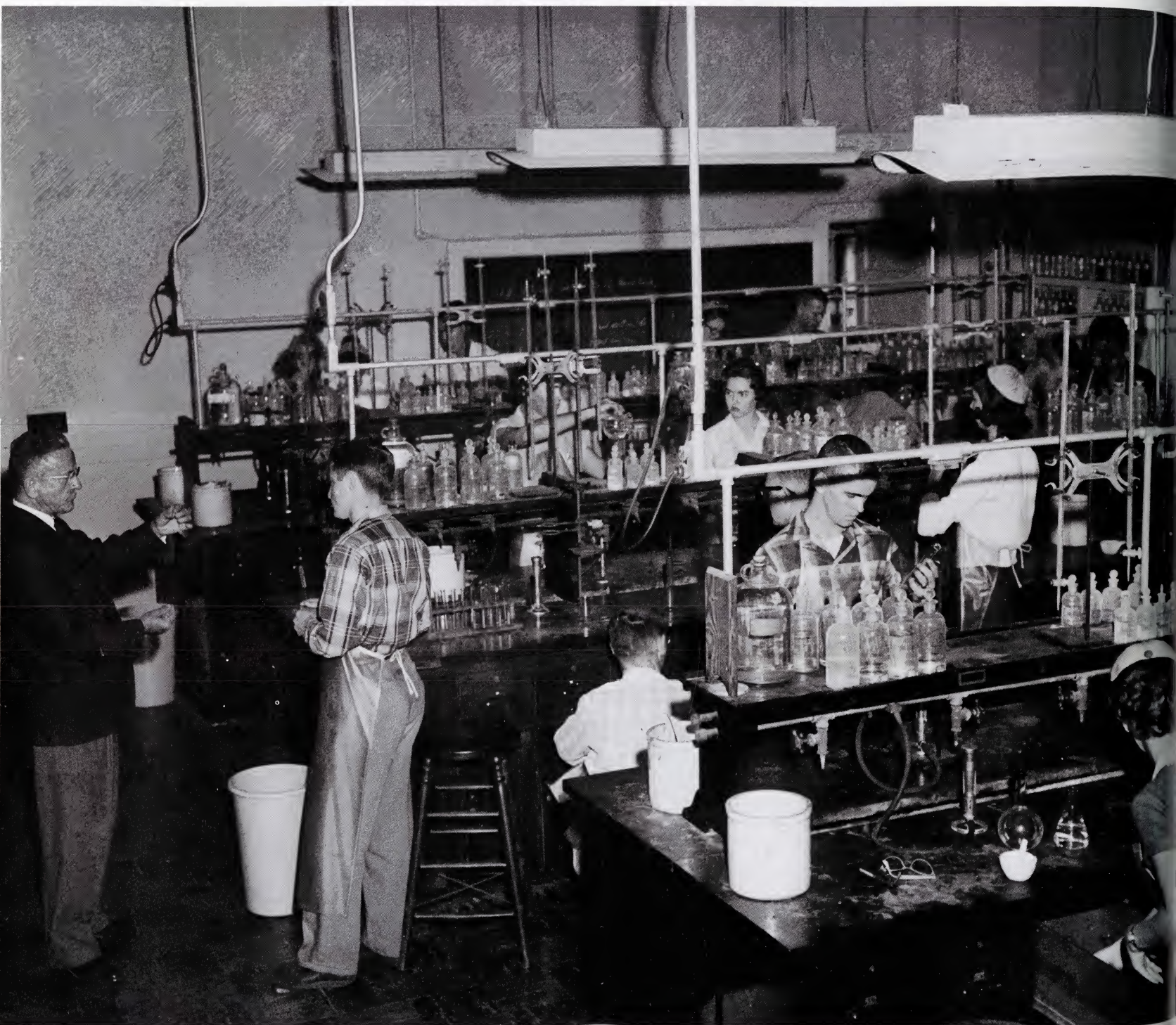
These adjustments, difficult though they may have been to work out, are evidence of one important fact: men were actively entering and contributing to life at Alabama College, and not merely through student government.

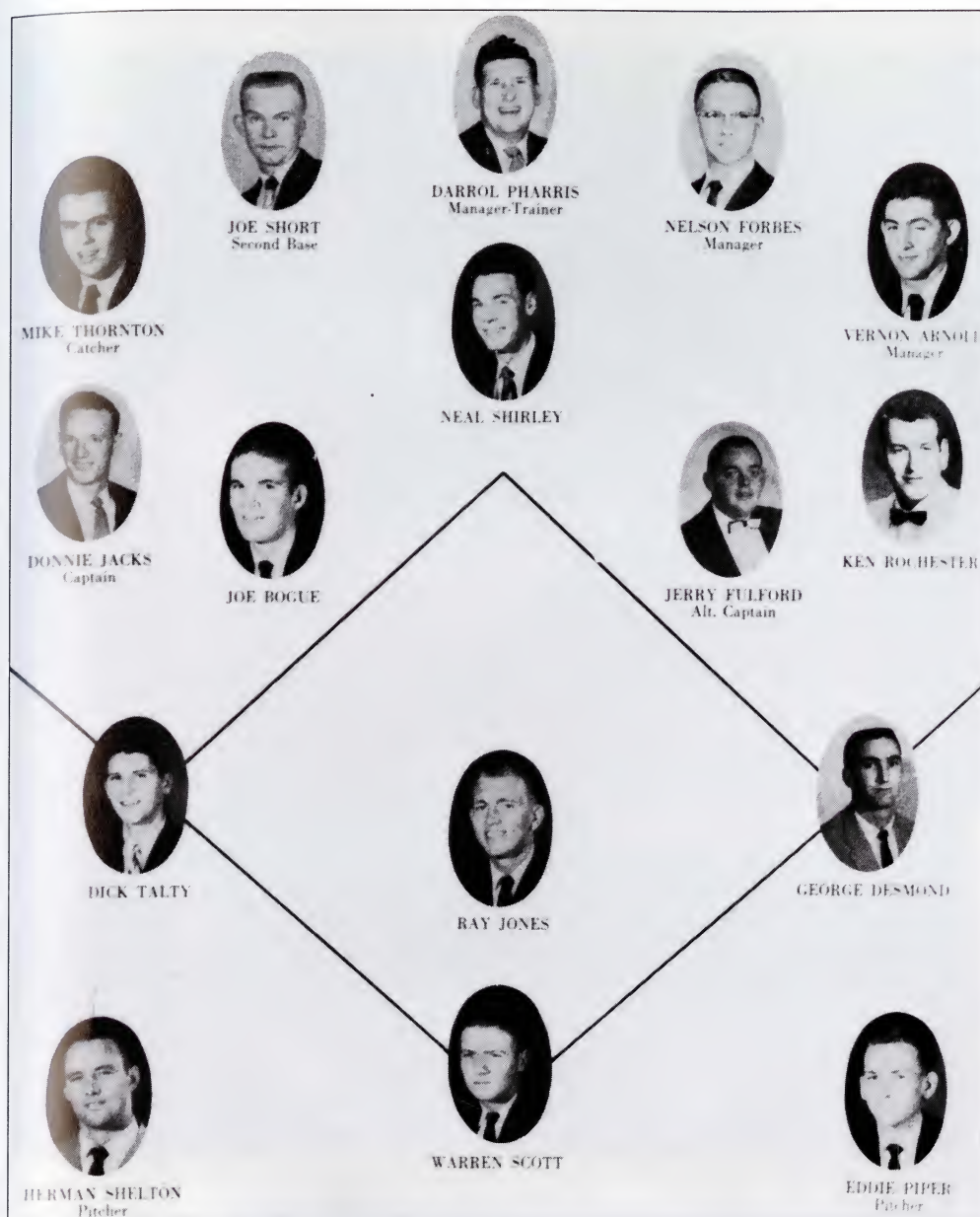
Social life made a leap, especially with the formation of social clubs, later to become fraternities and sororities. The first, for the men, were in 1964 — the Meisters, the Deltas, and the Sigmas. Women’s groups soon followed. New kinds of entertainment came to the campus, such as the Lettermen in 1964.

A significant impact on student life was felt by national affairs such as the assassination of President Kennedy and the war in Vietnam that might take away

Circle K began sponsoring blood drives in 1966 to kick off Drives Week, an annual event of charity fund-raising by various campus organizations. Bobby Hand, Bob Posey, and David Kirk donate blood in 1968.







Alabama College's first intercollegiate sport for men was baseball, coached by Frank Lightfoot. The players won one of 11 games that year. In the team's nearly 40-year history, there have been only four baseball coaches; after Lightfoot came Tom Fleming and Fred Weems. Bob Riesener has been coach for more than 20 years.

(Opposite) W. J. Kennerly had a mixed chemistry lab in the 1960s — with men and women.

young men. In contrast to those elsewhere, students supported the soldiers in Vietnam. They protested the burning of draft cards (by letter to Senator John Sparkman) and held very successful blood drives — one that boasted a larger percent of student participation than at any other college in the state.

The curriculum, and the classes themselves, were enriched by the presence of men. The College began offering pre-professional courses in medicine, law, and engineering. The most significant changes, however, were in physical education and business. In physical education, coaching courses were developed and intercollegiate sports for men were organized, the first being a baseball team for men coached by Frank Lightfoot and assisted by Jim Wilkinson (who was also dean of men) in 1958. Intercollegiate tennis, coached by Floyd Anderson, came in 1959, and golf, coached by Chester Palmer, in 1960. A cross-country team was formed in 1961. Men and women competed, of course, in a variety of sports on the intra-

(Right) In 1959 Alabama College's athletic teams began to be called "Falcons," but it was not until 1967 that an actual falcon was given by the Delta social club. Ace, poor fellow, died in 1970 and was not replaced. Today, a human mascot, Freddie Falcon, entertains at games. Ace is pictured here at four months old — the molting age — with one of his Delta brothers, Johnny Shivers.



(Below) Alabama College's first intercollegiate basketball team for men was in 1964-1965, coached by Leon Davis. The players were (kneeling) Jeff Hipson, Jim Harris, Robert Towns, Archie Ingram, Miles Butler, Donnie Andrews; (standing) Wayne Purvis, Paul Kellog, Ronnie Bell, John Goff, Phil Gleason, and John Locklar.





(Above) The first Purple College Night production featuring men as cast members was in 1958, The Itch to Hitch, or Wives by the Fives, written by Jim Brantley, Barbara Goldstein, and Rebecca Gantt. Shown here are Gene Brymer, Pat Hodges, Russell Caine, and Mary Thornton. Leaders in 1958 were Lois Swindal and Ann Ellis.

(Right) A memorable College Night was the 1963 Gold production, A Funny Thing Happened to Me on the Way to Ford's Theatre, directed by Paul Looney. John Batson played Abraham Lincoln.



mural levels — each had basketball and tennis matches, and there was touch football for men and volleyball for women. It was in 1959 that Montevallo players became known as Falcons.

The Department of Business began adding courses in business administration, which were to the advantage of women as well as of men. For some years, secretarial courses continued to be offered, but gradually these were dropped.

Men added to campus social life, as well. Their numbers increased — as did those of women. In five years, enrollment tripled. In less than ten years, more than forty percent of the students were men. Gone were the days of importing men from Marion Institute or Craig Air Force Base in Selma for dances. Gone were the College Nights and plays where women had played men's parts. (Woe



The first male SGA officers were members of the West Main House Council in 1956-1957. Conferring with President Lund are Herman Shelton, Neal Shirley, Roger Patrick, and Don Peerson.

unto you if you were taller than average or had a low-pitched voice: no women's roles for you.) In 1957, men had roles in the Gold production; for the Purples that year, men mostly worked on staging. The Golds again made history by electing Bobby Harrison as the first male College Night leader in 1960. It was not until 1963 that men and women were elected as co-leaders.

Men made history quite early in student government, as well. Neal Shirley was elected SGA president for 1958-59. Men followed in other leadership roles in the Senate and Court. For a number of years at Elite



Alma Mater

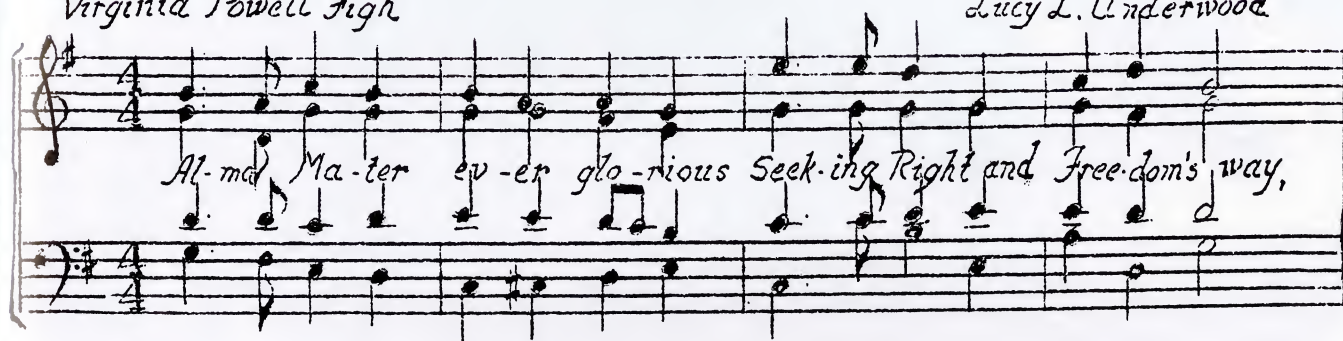
When Alabama College went coed, the words to the old *Alma Mater* were unsuitable. Alumnae Virginia Powell Figh '48 was asked to write lyrics to the music composed by Lucy Underwood '54 (far left).

ALMA MATER

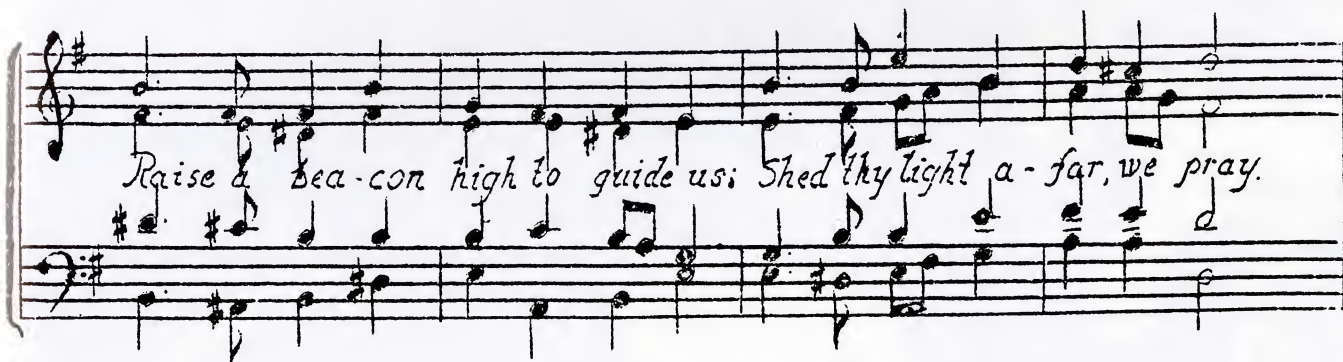
Alabama College

Poem by
Virginia Powell Figh

Music by
Lucy L. Underwood



Al-ma Ma-ter ev-er glo-rious Seek-ing Right and Free-dom's way,



Raise a Bea-con high to guide us; Shed thy light a-far, we pray.



Sons and daugh-ters sing thy prais-es; Stead-fast vir-tues win thee fame,



May the years be rich and fruit-ful, Truth and Hon-or crown thy name.

(Right) Class favorites at Elite Night 1966 were (seated) Babs Smith, sophomore; John Amari, freshman; Rocky Stone, senior; Mary Kay Eddins, senior; (standing) Sharon Henderson, junior; Apple Kridakorn, freshman; and Mary Granade, junior.



(Below) Members of the student court in 1960-1961 were (seated) Rebecca Martin, Chief Justice Betty Baker, Hanna Berger; (standing) Bruce McClanahan, Frank Ellis, Barbara Newton, Kenneth Taylor, and Benny West.





(Above) Beauty finalists with their roses come from the dressing rooms backstage at Palmer Hall to appear onstage for Elite Night 1964.

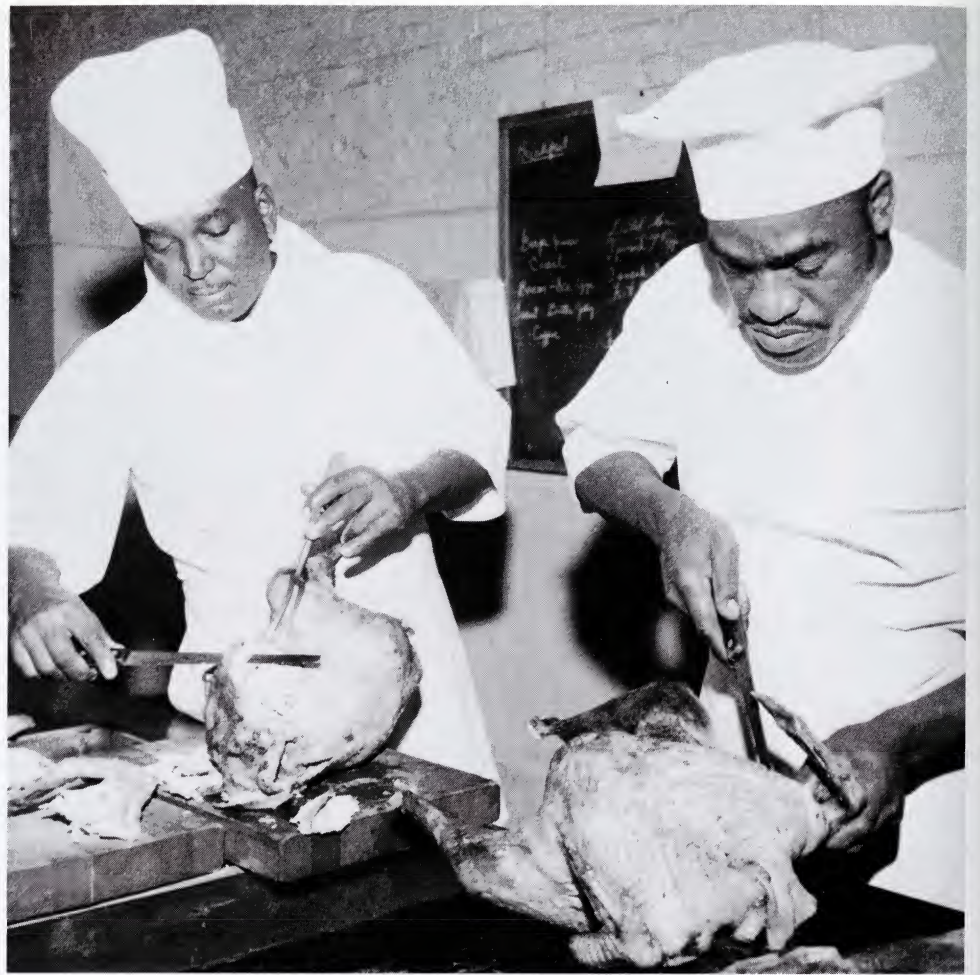
(Right) Laura Bailey, Miss Alabama College of 1960-1961, honors Miss Alabama College of 1961-1962, Joan Murphree, and the first Mr. Alabama College, Allen Holmes.



Night, Miss Alabama College was elected by students to represent the ideal person on campus; in 1961, there was a Mr. A.C. as well — and that tradition has continued through today, with the nominees presented at Elite Night and the winners at College Night.

Napier Dormitory was followed in 1961 by New Men's, later named Fuller Hall. With more and more men on campus, there came more and more cars — and with them more and more parking lots.

The coming of men had another impact as significant on stu-



(Top) Members of the food service staff carve turkeys for traditional holiday meals which were served family-style until the arrival of cafeteria dining in the 1960s.

(Bottom) By the early 1960s, it was easier to have cars on campus. That meant more parking lots.

dents as their cars had on parking spaces. Food. Since 1896 students, and most faculty, had eaten meals at set times for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. It was family-style dining at tables for eight with cloth napkins and pitchers of milk and water at each table. Student workers served the food in large white bowls and platters to the “hostess” at the head of each table. Though the food was good, it is normal for students to tire of the sameness,

and the men’s larger appetites and desire for greater variety challenged the dining hall staff. Sunday night supper, traditionally a light meal, left students longing for more. The only solution was to change to cafeteria-style dining, and, of course, to enlarging the dining area. (That didn’t stop student complaints about food. In 1964 the *Alabamian* reported that the SGA and Senate “have all taken an active interest in the well-known ‘food problem.’ As a result, we now have delicious meals served to us by a new catering service. No more will be heard complaints about our cafeteria.” How nice.)



Dr. Lund, who so eloquently put forth the case for coeducation, was not at Montevallo long enough to see its full impact. At the end of the first year of coeducation, he left to become president of Kenyon College in Ohio. His replacement was Howard M. Phillips, a scientist and dean of the Graduate School at Emory University. It was Phillips, therefore, who led faculty and students through its first years of adjustment and increases in enrollment.

Many called Dr. Phillips blessed because he raised faculty salaries. New faculty who were being hired could command competitive salaries, and Dr. Phillips saw that longtime professors were being underpaid by comparison. As a consequence, a number of them saw substantial increases.

Another concern of Dr. Phillips' was academic standards. (A favorite expression of his was: "Companions in zealous learning with a defiant intolerance for mediocrity.") To this end, he took certain steps to ensure "zealous learning." One important step was to require all freshmen to take the ACT and to adopt a cutoff point for entrance, a practice still continued. Another lasting policy was the establishment of an Honors Program in 1959 "to provide for the superior student intellectual opportunities for study and research not available in the regular curriculum." Dr. Phillips also revived the student literary magazine, the *Tower*, which had not been published for several years.

Increased enrollment was causing problems for students and faculty alike. As the 1960s progressed and the number of students continued to rise, dormitory space, particularly for women, was at a premium. Often, three women had to

Howard M. Phillips was president of Alabama College from 1957 to 1963 and is credited with the successful incorporation of men into student life. In keeping with the efforts of past administrators and faculty to improve quality, Dr. Phillips encouraged the creation of the honors program and European seminars. Students said of him in the yearbook, "To know him is to understand why our school has moved forward with no backward glances." Mrs. Phillips was held in fond regard by the whole community, off campus and on.



Delos P. Culp, president from 1963 to 1968, directed one of the most significant building programs at Alabama College. Increased legislative appropriations and his talent for securing federal grants led to the construction of a student center, a library, a gymnasium, a classroom building, a home demonstration house, and two dormitories. Another grant for which he was responsible was one enabling faculty to have a year of graduate study while still on the college payroll. Mrs. Culp was an avid gardener specializing in the hybridization of daylilies. One specimen she bred was a bicolor she named "Alabama College." Dr. Culp claimed that his two sons pictured here were responsible for one of the jokes for which he was famous. When Dr. Culp accepted the presidency of East Tennessee State University, he reported that one of the boys said, "Good-bye, God. We're going to Tennessee." The other corrected him, "Good! By god, we're going to Tennessee!"

share a single room. Classroom space also was needed; walls were knocked down in Comer Hall to accommodate sophomore English classes of 75 students. Some classes in Education had between 100 and 120 students; a supervisor of student teachers during one semester had 49 student teachers. The library in Wills Hall was overflowing with books and students.

Dr. Phillips recognized the need for more dormitory and classroom space but was not at Montevallo long enough to see all those problems solved. In 1963, to the sorrow of faculty and students alike, he accepted the presidency of Birmingham-Southern College. His departure also meant the loss to the campus community of Mrs. Phillips, who held the affection of all who knew her.

The man who replaced him was Delos P. Culp, who had been president at Livingston State College and had worked in the State Depart-

ment of Education. Dr. Culp's appointment was not at first greeted with full acceptance by the faculty, and there were several retirements and resignations. The fall of 1963 saw, therefore, a rather large influx of new faculty, many of whom would stay at Montevallo for years to come.

Dr. Culp soon won the respect of the campus and community. His knowledge of school finance and his direct manner of confronting problems were boons to the growing school. Lucille Griffith, in her history of Alabama College, cites a colleague: "his outstanding characteristic was integrity." To further quote Griffith:

"Convinced that there was always room for improvement, he often urged the faculty to concentrate on good teaching in the class-



room. In fact, he spoke of it so often that some instructors became sensitive to his admonitions, sensing in them an implied criticism of the work they were doing.”

Dr. Culp, with his understanding of college finance, came at a propitious time, when need for space was met by the availability of money for new buildings through a small increase in state funding, loans, and federal grants. The College had more funds for building than ever before in its history. And build it did — six major new buildings and extensive renovations to others in five years.

Some progress in new buildings — the new dormitory for men and a new gymnasium — had been made in Dr. Phillips’ administration. Bibb Graves Hall had long been inadequate for physical education. (It had been built during the

This panorama of the quad and front campus was made soon after coeducation in 1956-1957. Napier, far right, has been built (1957), but Carmichael Library (1967) behind Palmer Hall has not been started. Note that Calkins Hall, in the foreground, has no parking lot.



The late 1960s saw a flurry of major construction projects, thanks to some federal and state funding, and President Culp's talent for securing those funds. This is Harman Hall, the science building, in the process of going up. It is named for Arthur F. Harman, the college's fifth president.

Depression with federal funds available for airplane hangars, but was never used for that purpose.) The new gym, later named for Geneva Myrick, alumna and professor of Health, Physical Education and Recreation, officially opened in December of 1964 with a band concert, barbecue, dedicatory address by Governor George Wallace, and a basketball game pitting the Montevallo Falcons against John Marshall University of Atlanta. The Falcons won.

After the gymnasium, other buildings followed. The College acquired, in a property swap, the town's old (1915) elementary school building, Jeter Hall, named for M.P. Jeter, Sr., leading Montevallo citizen and chairman of the Montevallo School Board when it was built. The building was renovated in 1964-1965 for the Social Sciences Department, which moved from its white frame building behind Palmer Hall. (There were three such buildings there, which were torn down when the new library was built in 1967-1968. Besides Social Sciences, one building was the Nursery School and the other a practice home for home economics students.)

A student union building, named for Dr. Hallie Farmer, a renowned teacher of political science and leader in reform movements in Alabama, was built in 1964-1965. It houses the campus post office, book/supply store, SGA, and student activities offices. The old Tea House, once in a wing of Reynolds, also moved here and is now called Monte's. The building itself, alas to those who knew her, is seldom called Farmer Hall. It's simply the "Sub."

Hill House was built in 1968 to replace the building behind Palmer that was the demonstration home for home

economics students. Originally it had an apartment for the faculty house director, four bedrooms for students, a dining room and kitchen "with the best equipment," and living/entertaining areas described as "gracious." Times do change. Over the years, home economics education changed greatly, and fewer students enrolled in the programs for home management. The house was converted in 1987 to a center for offices and various honor groups on campus. The house director's apartment is now principally for the use of visiting Vacca professors.

Harman Hall, named for the College's fifth president, was built in 1967-1968 for the sciences — biology, chemistry, physics, mathematics, and geology. It is constructed around a courtyard where there is an eight-ton geode, found in northwest Shelby County in 1965 and donated to the College by Shook and Fletcher Mining Company and the Shelby County Highway Department. The geode was the pride of Dr. J.E.L. Connell, geology professor.

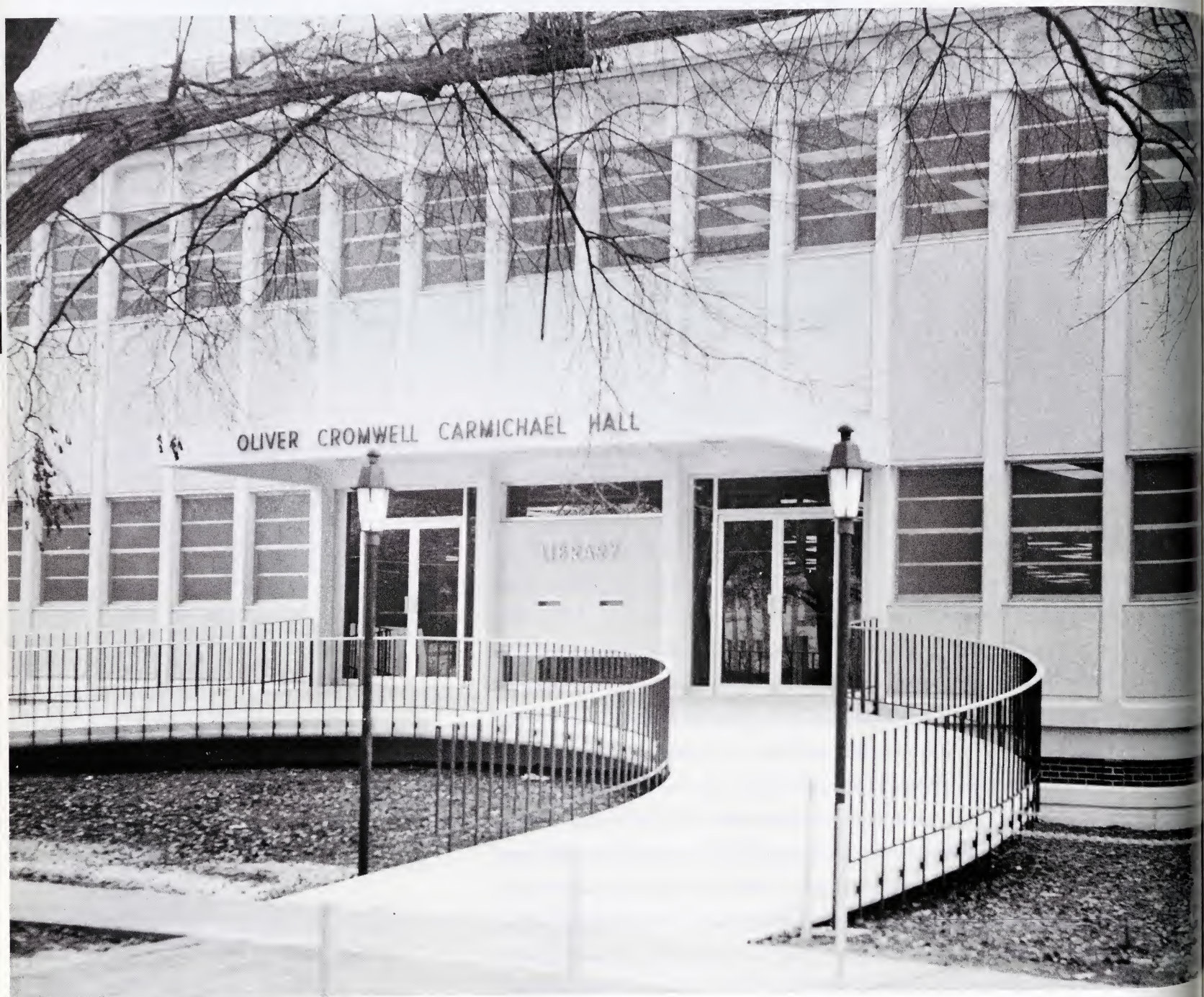
Carmichael Library at last relieved the space problem in Wills Hall. When it opened in February 1968, students took a proprietary interest in it, as they had moved the books themselves. Library director Robert B. Somers had ordered dozens of three-foot wooden carriers, similar to troughs, to be built by college carpenters. The intention was for two people, one at each end, to carry one trough at a time from the old building to the new. But imaginative, playful students invented



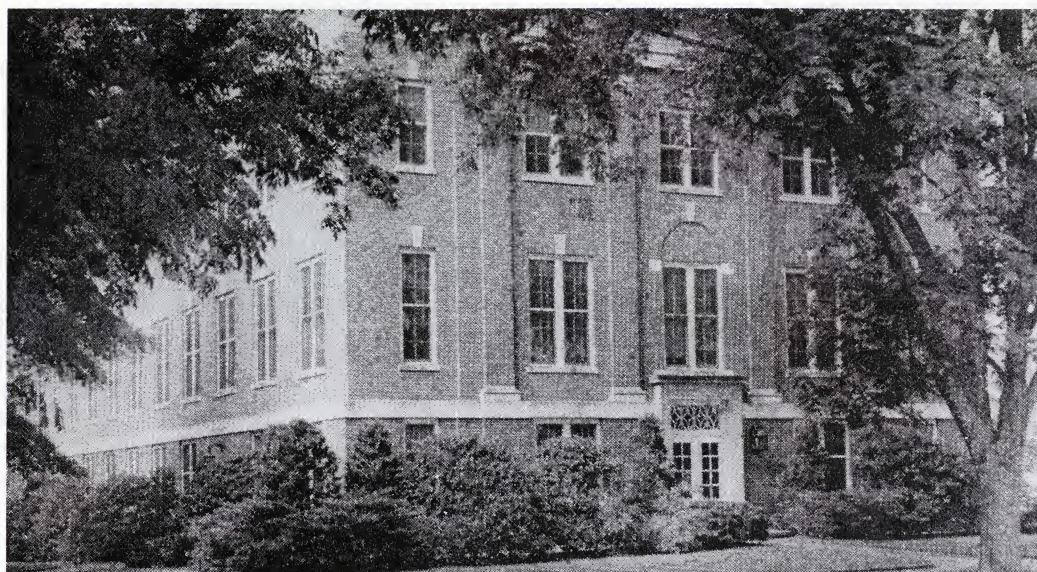
The old library was beautiful but crowded, poorly lit, and not air-conditioned. This is a scene looking down on the Napier Nook, a browsing (and dozing) area at the end of the main reading room.

The new library, Carmichael Hall, named for Alabama College's fourth president, has been in use since February 1968. The main floor was renovated in 1994, and a computerized card catalog was installed in 1995.

a new way; they formed long lines of carriers, gripping a handle of each trough with each hand. It was a glorious spectacle to see them winding across the green, sometimes staggering, carrying books by the hundreds. The activity started at noon on a beautiful Friday and continued in the daylight hours until late Monday afternoon. Librarians claim that they continued to check out books — not many, to be sure — from both buildings during the move. Library staff and faculty members — Charles Majure, Sankey Sherer, Shirley and Jesse Jackson among them — supervised the shelving of the books in the new building. Everybody cooperated, even the weather. It snowed the next day.



Crowded dormitory space was eased the next year with the building of two dormitories, one for women and one for men. The women's hall was named for Myrtle Brooke, the founder of Montevallo's social work program, the first in Alabama. At first, the men's hall was called Fuller Annex, as the two are connected by a covered walkway. It was later named for President Lund.



The old library building, Wills Hall, was enlarged and converted into classroom and office space for the Department — now College — of Education. (In 1975, an addition doubled the space there.) The beautifully proportioned Palladian windows of the reading room were preserved, though divided by construction to make two floors. The old ceiling beams with their intricate designs of red, blue and gold — seldom noticed because of the height of the room and the dim lighting — are still there, unseen now because of the new ceiling and heating/cooling ducts.

Renovations were taking place in other buildings — Main Dormitory, for one; men were moved back there and shuffled from room to room while workers labored around them. Improvements were taking place in Comer, as well, and classes had to move out, some to Reynolds or wherever they could find space.

A major change had taken place while these new buildings were going up — a new campus-wide (almost) heating and cooling system was installed that entailed the burying of pipes to the new buildings and some of the old. The pipes were designed to carry chilled water or hot, depending on the need. Trouble arose in changeable weather, especially spring and fall, when the system didn't work satisfactorily. Students and faculty complained of excessive heat.

Without a doubt, coeducation had worked, and as a result Alabama College, though still true to its principles of providing a liberal education and selected professional programs, was a completely different school. Historian Griffith reminds us of President Harman's words: "As institutions serve, they change." Most of the changes at Montevallo had been gradual, and as need arose. As the 1960s drew to a close, more change was in store for the school. A change in administration, for one. Dr. Culp left in the middle of the school year of 1967-1968 to assume the presidency of East Tennessee State University.

In the mid-1960s, Comer Hall was one of a number of buildings to undergo renovation. Comer Hall, named for Governor Braxton Bragg Comer, was constructed in the late 1930s.



(Top) In an uncharacteristic pose, President Kermit Johnson is surrounded by his "harem," flanked by Missy Edmondson, Andrea Whittle, Apple Kridakorn, an unidentified beauty, Jenny Lind, Suzanne Lyons, Sunny Saxon. Behind them are Jackie Crawford, Johnnie Andrews, Carolyn Walker, Harriet Mattox, and Peggy Maher. From time to time, the cafeteria and SGA joined forces to give students a little something extra. This one was held in Bibb Graves Hall in March 1968.

(Right) Familiar faces at Alabama College in the late 1950s were chairman of the biology department Paul Bailey, dean of students/dean of women Iva Gibson, chairman of the social sciences department/dean of men/dean of the faculty John B. Walters, foreign language professor Elizabeth Stockton, and public relations director Ralph Sears. Sears later served as mayor of Montevallo for more than 20 years.

Dr. Kermit Johnson was appointed the new president early in 1968. He was superintendent of education in Jefferson County at the time, and for at least two months, he held both positions. There has been much speculation on the reason for Dr. Johnson's appointment. Unlike almost all of Montevallo's presidents, he had no experience with higher education, but his success in Jefferson County was well known. It has been said that the trustees wanted someone with a proven steady hand and head. Students throughout the U.S. (but not at Montevallo) had become activists — in protesting the war in Vietnam, in civil rights, in women's issues. The Board of Trustees felt that Dr. Johnson was the right choice.

Dr. Johnson did his best to keep the school and its students and faculty on a straight path, and for a time, things remained calm at Montevallo. The Board of Trustees had authorized Dr. Culp to sign an assurance of compliance with the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and peaceful, unheralded integration had taken place. Students were still relatively compliant and conservative in their dress and their politics, though the occasional long-haired young man could be spotted.

There were still some faculty and administrators from earlier years, many of



them campus leaders; those who came in the early 1960s were now becoming influential in forming policy and influencing students.

Dr. Hendrik van Tuyll, professor of philosophy, was highly esteemed by his students and an unforgettable figure on campus. He was also an accomplished organist and led a group of faculty and students in efforts to preserve the famous old organ in Palmer.

When still a young man John Lott assumed the chairmanship of the English Department and later became the dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; he also led the Honors Program. Other unforgettable English Department members were Bill Cobb, Elizabeth Rodgers, Charlotte Blackmon, and Sandra Lott. Eloise Meroney retired in 1965, but Eva Golson and Sarah Puryear remained on the faculty a few more years.

In social sciences there were Justin Fuller, Reuben Triplett, and the Jacksons.

In the sciences, few can forget Eugene Sledge or Dr. "Rocks" Connell, D.R. McMillan, and Phil Beasley.

Allen Terry, delightful gentleman always, led the Business Department.

In physical education, teachers who had lasting impact on students and programs included Leon Davis, Margaret Blalock, Jeanette Crew, and Ward Tishler.

Charles Gormley, Bill Fancher, and Minnie Dunn saw healthy growth in the Department of Education, with the addition of faculty members, Frances Cannon, Robert Lightfoot, and Lawrence and Nell Malone.

In theatre, Trummie had retired but the Department of Speech continued to develop with Andrew Kochman, Charles Harbour, Mrs. Trummie, and W.T. Chichester, affectionately known as "Chi."

Laura Wright continued with great success to build the speech pathology and audiology division (later a separate department) under the guidance of Vivian Roe.

In music, Maxine Davis continued her leadership on campus and continued to earn the devotion of her students. Her talents were joined by those of Bruce Tolbert, John Stewart, Ted Pritchett, Bennie Middaugh, and duo pianists Joan and Robert Cowan.



(Top) Polly Holliday, who later earned fame as an actress on Broadway and in Hollywood, got her start on Montevallo's stage. A music major, Holliday made her debut in The Sandalwood Box, a Willilee Trumbauer production, in 1955. Andrew Kochman's production of Medea two years later was a dazzling climax to her Alabama College career. Kochman's children appeared with Holliday in Euripides' tragedy.

(Bottom) Doug Burnham, left, David Phillips, and David Coggins, right, rehearse a scene from Shakespeare's Twelfth Night, a 1965 production directed by Charles Harbour. W.T. Chichester was technical director, and Willilee Trumbauer was costumer.



(Above) Miriam Collins teaches fly fishing to a new coed and Bonnie Strickland in 1957.

(Opposite) Founders Day has been observed each October since 1896. Awarding caps and gowns to the senior class has been part of the ceremony since the 1940s. For many years, it was traditional for women to wear white dresses at Founders Day, commencement, and Honors Day.

In foreign languages, Joe DiOrio was an indelible figure in the memories of students and faculty alike. Later in the decade came Richard Thames and Charles Majure.

It is impossible to mention them all, and there are many more who left their marks on Alabama College, who helped shape the institution into its new form, a growing and vibrant college for women and men. As the 1960s drew to a close, there was another major change in its future.





Spring 1968 commencement was the first at which President Johnson presided. In procession just behind him is senior class president Bob Rollins.



(Left) The 1960s introduced freshmen to green beanie caps or "rat hats." During Rat Week they had to be prepared to quote from the SGA handbook, sing the Alma Mater backward and forward, run errands, or even number bricks on the buildings.

(Below) Circle K formed a volunteer branch of the Montevallo Fire Department in 1961. The college owned a 1942 combination ladder/pumper.





(Right) Ellen Wright was featured in a 1964 Gold production, And the Tree Makes Three. The Golds had a long winning streak, from 1961 through 1967.

(Below) Hal McIntosh, Frank Cruz, Susan Patridge, and Fred Holbein were featured in the 1969 Purple production, A Rib and a Fig Leaf, a fast-moving satire of the fashion world, directed by Kitty Windham and written by Keith Harrelson and Jerry McKee. Leaders that year were Donna Donnelly and Jim Weese.





(Top) The longest minutes in the world are those standing on the stage of Palmer Hall at the end of College Night, waiting for the SGA president to announce the decision of the judges. The agony shows on the faces of these 1965 Purples.

(Bottom) Golds get into the spirit of College Night in the lobby of Palmer Hall.



CHAPTER 6

University of Montevallo

1969-1977

Resolution

*W*HEREAS, "Alabama College" is the corporate name given to the institution at Montevallo by the Legislature of Alabama, such being the fourth name of the institution, having been preceded by Alabama Girls Industrial School, Alabama Girls Technical Institute, and later the Alabama Technical Institute and College for Women, and

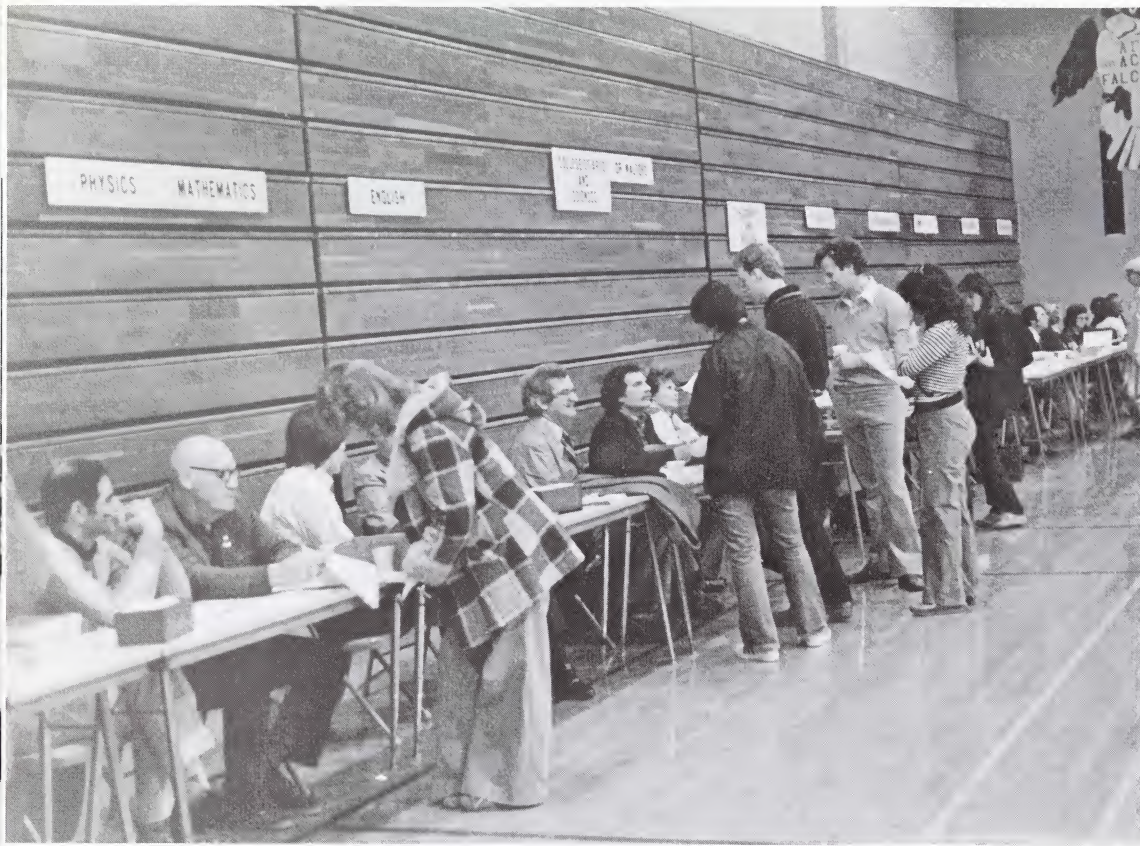
WHEREAS, four other public senior colleges in Alabama have recently obtained university status which is reflected by change in the name of the institutions, making a total of seven public universities in the State, and

WHEREAS, Alabama College has grown in enrollment, number of faculty, physical plant, and curriculum offerings; therefore

RESOLVED, that the Alabama College Board of Trustees in session this fifth day of November, nineteen hundred and sixty-eight, respectfully request the Legislature and Governor of Alabama to change the name of Alabama College; and further

RESOLVED, that a proposed Act be prepared and that a member of the State Legislature be requested to introduce said Act in the next regular or special session of the Legislature.

(Opposite) Changing the name above the gates was only a small step. To change from a college to a university inside those gates took giant steps.



Registration for fall classes was held in Myrick Gymnasium until registration was decentralized in the 1980s. Students complained, faculty complained — it was hot, lines were long, and the whole process was painful.

This resolution was passed unanimously by the Board of Trustees in November 1968, and by the fall of 1969 an act of the Legislature created the University of Montevallo.

There had been a number of suggestions for a new name; many had pressed for the word “Alabama” in the title. The University of Central Alabama was a popular one. As others pointed out, this was not distinctive enough — it made the school sound as if it were an adjunct of the University of Alabama. The general consensus was that “Montevallo” should be part of the new name; after all, that’s what most people had called the place through

years of name changes. The Board suggested “Montevallo University,” but there were objections to that, too — its initials would sound more like a cow than an institution of higher learning. So the University of Montevallo it became.

There had been some faculty (and certainly administrators) and students who had gotten wind of this new development, but they were few. At a Governor’s Day luncheon on November 5, 1968, Governor Albert Brewer had obviously expected cheers and acclamation when he made his dramatic announcement to the large gathering, and was nonplused by the stunned silence that ensued.

Nevertheless, a university Montevallo had become. As if to mark the end of an era, Lucille Griffith’s history of the school, *Alabama College, 1896-1969*, was published.

At a faculty meeting, Dean John Walters calmly affirmed that the institution would meet this challenge with the same characteristic with which it had met others — integrity. The institution would continue to uphold its tradition of high standards. The University was divided into three colleges: Business, with Allen Terry as dean; Education, with Bill Fancher as dean; and Liberal Arts, with John Walters as dean.

There were a number of administrative details to work out — for example, equitable representation on such committees as the Advisory Committee to the President (subsequently Faculty Council). The College of Liberal Arts was, of course, considerably larger as far as the number of departments and faculty, though there were growing



numbers of majors in business and education. In 1973 music, art, and speech/theatre were removed from the College of Liberal Arts (which became the College of Arts and Sciences) to form the College of Fine Arts, with John Stewart as dean.

The new era brought more than changes in name. The graduate program was expanded, particularly in the College of Education, but also in the colleges of Fine Arts and Arts and Sciences. (There is no graduate program in the College of Business.) Graduate courses that had been offered only during summer terms began to be offered during the regular school year. A master of education degree was reinstated, and the Music Department and College of Education jointly began a program leading to the master of music degree. Other advanced degrees offered at this time were master of arts in teaching, with concentration in areas such as English, biology, history, and theatre.

Emphasis was still on the undergraduate program, and the University continued to pride itself on small classes and the fact that senior faculty taught undergraduates, as they still do.

Dr. Lucille Griffith, historian and chairman of the Social Sciences Department, wrote a history, Alabama College, 1896-1969, that was published just as the college became a university. Griffith, seated at the far right, is joined by bookstore manager Mary Hood and President and Mrs. Johnson.

A new program, transportation safety, was developed in 1969. Dean Bill Fancher of the College of Education secured federal grants to fund year-round curricula in driver education and school bus safety to serve education personnel in Southeastern states. The first summer of operation in 1970 saw an enrollment of more than 350 students.

The College of Education took a major step forward when it applied for accreditation from the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education. To achieve this, teacher salaries were boosted and faculty class loads reduced. Student enrollment increased. As a result of this effort and others to upgrade the curriculum, the University's teacher education program was ranked the most effective in Alabama, as evaluated by 95 percent of the elementary and secondary teachers and administrators.

The 1960s are remembered as a time of campus unrest, but at Montevallo, Dr. Johnson's administration appeared to have things under control. Compared to university students throughout the United States, students at Montevallo were politically conservative. Some were becoming vocal about U.S. involvement in Vietnam, but a majority supported the government's efforts there. In October of 1969, members of a national movement urged colleges to observe a Vietnam Moratorium Day by boycotting classes and wearing black armbands; Montevallo's student Senate passed a resolution supporting U.S. troops in Vietnam and President Nixon's "approach toward a lasting peace," and encouraged students to wear white armbands.

One of the big issues of the 1970s was that of "visitation," the opening of dormitories for visits from people of the opposite sex. After allowing visitation for a few hours on Sunday afternoons, the Board of Trustees gradually granted extended hours — provided that a vote was taken at each hall to approve it.



A few months later, Young Republicans and Circle K, led by Danny Cooper, Larry Bishop, and Major May, sent a telegram to Nixon in support of his "efforts to conclude American involvement in Vietnam." The telegram, which Nixon said was the longest ever sent from Alabama, was signed by 73 percent of the student body and was 40 feet long.

Instead of protesting U.S. foreign policy, Montevallo students expressed concern about some "local" issues. In response, women were given permission in 1970 to wear slacks to the cafeteria and to classes. Men aged 21 and over were allowed to live off campus. In February of 1974 a form of protest that had been seen on other campuses



SGA members in 1974-1975 were thorns in the sides of the administration. They had the audacity to complain about conditions in dormitories, regulations for students, and academic standards. Some of the ringleaders pictured here are SGA president Tom Walker (seated); Steve Pickett, vice president; Mark Brandon, student trustee and ombudsman; Betty Driver, secretary; Ron Jones, social chairman; Darrell Taylor, treasurer; Mike Nuss, Senate secretary.

reached Montevallo — “streaking,” a shock tactic of students clothed only in ski masks and shoes. At issue were the persistence of curfews for women and limited inter-dormitory visitation rights. The streakers — some 35 of them over the course of a couple of days — did get the attention of the administration; after a peaceful (clothed) march to Flowerhill, students met with President Johnson and Presidential Assistant James Chasteen in Palmer Hall for a late-night discussion of grievances. The result was a compromise; in a few weeks the Board of Trustees approved “open house” from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays, with the possibility of extension. No action was taken to abolish curfew, but weeknight curfew hours were extended to midnight.

Little change was in effect by the following fall, and students under the leadership of SGA President Tom Walker, Student Trustee Mark Brandon, and Senate President Steve Pickett again aired their grievances. In November 1974, a meeting dubbed “Palmer II” was held for students to define areas of concern and to identify types of action the Board of Trustees would be asked to take. Walker also promised to unveil “dramatic ways” in which students could influence Trustees. By this time student complaints had broadened and now included academic standards and poor dormitory conditions.

One of Walker’s tactics was to send mailgrams to trustees and to Governor George Wallace; when the administration refused to approve payment



(Top) There were serious student concerns in the 1970s — conditions in the dorms, fears that academic standards were slipping, the disparity of regulations for women and men, illegal searches for marijuana, the condition of the organ in Palmer, and lack of space in the cafeteria. Some students vented their feelings in a time-honored way — panty raids. Or was that just an excuse?

(Bottom) Crook Week was never like this. Senior women carried on the tradition of “marching” on underclass women late at night for a little hazing, but it could get out of control and become messy. It has not been held in recent years.

of the \$39 mailgram charges from the SGA budget, SGA paid them from concession funds collected at College Night.

More streakers appeared in February and March 1975, and rowdy panty raids ensued, which had nothing to do with student concerns. *Alabamian* editor Ron Carlee called it “disorder, destruction, and disenchantment”; Carlee was brought before the Publications Board for publishing a photograph of a streaker, but was upheld by that body. (His predecessor, David Vest, had published three such pictures the year before, with no formal action taken against him.)

In spite of their efforts, students saw little success in getting approval of their bills to eliminate curfews and change other regulations for women. Still, they did get the attention of the Board of Trustees. Chairman Wales Wallace made a surprise visit to the campus to inspect conditions in dormitories. As a result, Holland

Floyd was hired as director of buildings and grounds, maintenance schedules were developed, and a pest control contract was made.

These were two short years out of a hundred — two interesting if sometimes uncomfortable years. It was a time of controversy (whether to repair or replace the organ in Palmer Hall was another emotional issue) that had seen unpleasant and even violent confrontations on other campuses. At Montevallo, instead of storming administrative offices or burning the library, students worked through the system, and thereby gained the respect of other students and many

faculty members. It is interesting to note that 20 years later the leaders of what might have been Montevallo’s insurrection are still working through “the system.” Tom Walker is assistant to the president and legislative liaison at the University of Montevallo; Mark Brandon is a political science professor at the University of Michigan; Steve Pickett is president and chief executive officer of Tulane University Hospital; and Ron Carlee is director of the Arlington County Department of Human Resources in Arlington, Virginia.

Students were also concerned about construction on campus. Is it destroying “natural beauty”? the *Alabamian* editor asked in September 1975. These complaints centered on the location of new buildings and the expansion of old ones. By that time, two new dormitories, one for women and one for men, were built;



they were named respectively for Myrtle Brooke, who had started Alabama's first social work program at Montevallo, and for Franz Edward Lund, who was president when coeducation was introduced.

Calkins Hall was more than 50 years old, and had for some years been inadequate for the number of students and faculty in the Music Department; there were only 11 practice rooms for 120 majors and minors in 1969. The *Alabamian* reported, "Students often rehearse their Mozart concertos while being accompanied by a trumpeter playing the *William Tell Overture*." Plans to enlarge Calkins were dismissed in favor of a new building with practice rooms, studios, a library, and a 250-seat concert hall that was named for Harrison D. LeBaron, chairman of the department from 1930 to 1956. The first concert, a duo-piano recital by faculty members Joan Yarbrough and Robert Cowan, was held in LeBaron Recital Hall in February of 1972, even though seats had not been installed and the audience had to sit on concrete tiers. The building itself was known as "the music building" until the 1990s, when it was named in honor of Maxine Couch Davis, alumna and faculty emerita.

Before the music building was complete, a permanent home for the speech and hearing clinic was built to house dormitory rooms for children with speech or hearing impairments, a kitchen and dining room, offices, diagnostic and therapy rooms, and some classroom space.

Comer Hall was renovated: Carpeting was installed, entrances altered, and of-



(Above) They're not gangsters ready to shoot up the town of Wilton — they're the Delta Chi fraternity posing for a 1975 Montage shooting. Kneeling are Harold Walden, Jimmy Vann, Wayne Duncan, Sunny Cashman, Vince Cardone, Danny Harrison, Jimmy Greene, and Tim Pack; standing on the first row are Kirk Lightfoot, Julius Frith, Ricky Ferguson, Charles Parker, Mike Russell, Jimmy Sanders, Rich Crumpton, Roger Upton, David Basler, Jeff Gray, and Wayne Kerlin; at the rear are Steve Legg, John Morrow, Ken Plunkett, Curt Lowery, and Andy Maxwell. Not pictured is honorary member Governor George C. Wallace.

The 1974-1975 *Alabamian* covered the events of a turbulent year of student protest; some of the staff were Anne Calhoun, Pat Carpenter, Terry Barr, Editor Ron Carlee, Cheryl Couch, Ken Snider, and Kathy Duncan.



The University of Montevallo — and Alabama College — has had a program in speech pathology and audiology since the 1950s. For a number of years, it was unique in Alabama in that it is a residential clinic for children with speech and hearing problems. Much of the credit for strengthening the program should go to clinician Vivian Roe and Dr. Loretta Brown, chairman of the department from its creation in 1973 until her retirement in 1992. (Before 1973 it was part of the general speech department.) Some of the success of the clinic and its activities can be attributed to the generosity of the Scottish Rite Foundation. Bachelor's and master's degrees are offered.

(Right) "Inspiration," the statue bought with prize money Lillie Fair Smith won in an essay contest, has been on display in the school's library since the day she was bought in the early years of this century. She can be seen today in Carmichael Library.



fice space, particularly for the growing English Department, was enlarged. As a senior faculty member, Dr. Eva Golson was assigned a large corner office; a colleague reported that the unaccustomed sumptuousness dismayed Dr. Golson, and she would sometimes take papers into a storage closet to grade. The closet was also draft-free, which probably eased her well-known troublesome sinuses.

Calkins was renovated to house administrative offices, Reynolds Hall was renovated, and King House, the 1823 former home of Edmund King, was transformed. Inspired by the urging of the president's wife, Golda Johnson, the administration secured a Housing and Urban Development grant to restore King House completely. As a result, the house now reflects the early 19th century Federal architectural features that are rare in the Southeast.

The 1975 student complaints centered on the location of new buildings, or the expansion of older ones. A new cafeteria was planned (it was completed in 1978), Wills Hall and the speech and hearing clinic were being extended, and a new

building to house the fast-growing College of Business was being built as an extension to Comer Hall, with adjoining parking lots. The extension houses classrooms, offices, and computer laboratories, and is also the University's computer center. It



*(Left) Golda Johnson, wife of the president, urged the Board of Trustees to pursue the restoration of a campus treasure — the 1823 King House which had been used for an infirmary, classes, and offices after the school bought the property in 1908. A HUD grant was awarded, and Lewis Mayson, a restorer of note from Mobile, was hired for the work in 1972-1973. This photograph is one among many required by HUD to monitor Mayson's progress. Hand-hewn beams, square-headed nails, hand-made bricks, early 19th century window panes, rarely seen decorative touches above the door and windows — all these were brought to light during the restoration. Mrs. Johnson did considerable research on the house and family, which resulted in a book, *The Lives and Times of Kingswood in Alabama, 1817 - 1890*.*

(Below) Because its slave-made bricks were improperly fired, King House was stuccoed soon after it was built to prevent deterioration. These bricks were made especially for the restoration of the house to match the original brick. After some 150 years, King House, now the University of Montevallo's guest house, assumes its original Federal appearance.





(Above) Beverly Warren was brought to Montevallo to coach women's intercollegiate basketball. The Lady Falcons that first year, 1973-1974, were (standing) Kay Covington, Vickie Portis, Leila Nabors, Warren, Kathy Sorey, Newey Wilhite, Liz Johnson, manager Margaret Kneisley; (kneeling) Fran Hunter, Dianne Vanzant, Cathy Foster, Becky Glass, Connie Clemmons, and Joni Pepper.



(Top Right) The first intercollegiate sport for women since a brief period in the 1920s was volleyball in 1972-1973, coached by Margaret Blalock. The team had a strong beginning, playing at the national championship at Brigham Young University in Utah, where they placed 17th in the U.S. Players that year were (standing) Jan Curry, Joannie Howard, Marti Crawford, Gilda Lyon, Chris Campbell; (kneeling) Connie Clemons, Kathi Sorey, Linda Moore, Cindy Owens, Kiki Maestrales, Vicki Hester, and Susan Cullen.



(Bottom) Gerald Douglass was one among several fine players on Montevallo's 1974-1975 basketball team. He was named "Most Valuable Player" at four tournaments as well as NAIA All-American. Coach Bill Elder was named NAIA District 27 "Coach of the Year." The Falcons win-loss record that year was 23-9. In this photograph, Douglass accepts for the Falcons the first place trophy in the Montevallo Tipoff Tournament from Lee A. Barclay, UM business manager and Falcon fan.

was named, at the request of alumni, for longtime business professor Sara Ruth Morgan.

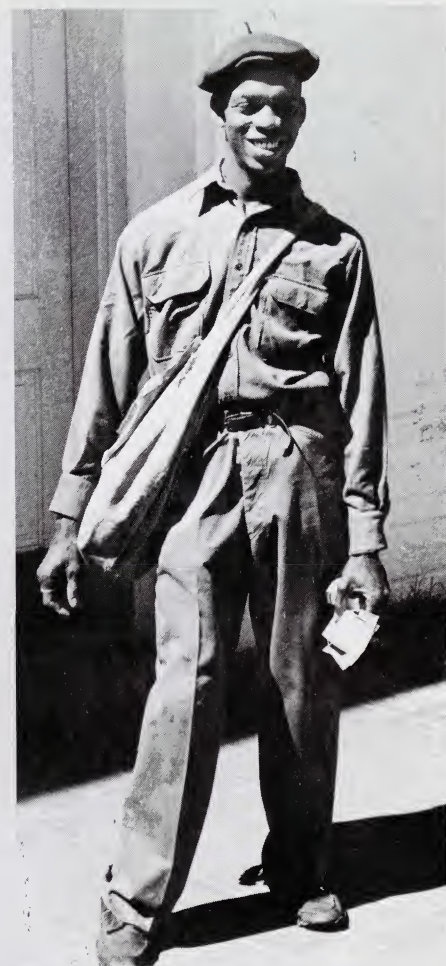
Students were not the only members of the University community to question the status quo. Members of the faculty began to assert themselves in the 1970s also. At the recommendation of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, when the University won reaccreditation by that body in 1971, a Faculty Council was formed to replace the Advisory Committee to the President, which had been appointed by the president himself. A representative group elected from members of the colleges, the Faculty Council defined its duties as providing "a means for drawing on the collective ability of the faculty in determining policies and procedures that can best advance the interests of the University" and as providing "the Administration and Board of Trustees with a more characteristic sampling of faculty opinion than is available through informal associations.... Matters of particular interest to the faculty would be its concern." Although its duties have been refined over the years, these basic principles are still valid for today's Council.

Among the policies the Faculty Council discussed and the recommendations they made to President Johnson and the Board of Trustees from 1971 to 1977 were insurance, faculty work load, summer school salaries, tenure and promotion policies, tuition waivers, registration procedures, and faculty representation on search committees for the hiring of administrators. Like those of the students, faculty recommendations saw only gradual success. A policy establishing faculty representation on search committees to hire new administrators, for example, was requested in 1971 but was not put into practice until 1977.

The transition from college to university had seemed simple on paper — a name change, the creation of separate colleges, and the strengthening of graduate offerings. In practice, it was not simple. Dr. Charles Gormley, professor of education and self-described "grizzled veteran of many an academic skirmish," perhaps described it best to his fellow Faculty Council members in 1977 in an imaginary



Since 1972-1973, there has been a student representative to the University of Montevallo Board of Trustees. The first was Bill Elliott. As an ex-officio nonvoting member, the trustee, appointed by Alabama's governor, represents student concerns and opinions to the board.



Charlie Webb

Charlie Webb, who retired in 1977, delivered mail to every building on campus for more than 35 years. In spite of his lameness, he was always smiling and always on time. It was said that the president could be gone for a few days and the university could function as usual, but if Charlie were gone for more than two days, everything came to a standstill. "Charlie took care of all of us," said a longtime staff member, "not only by picking up and delivering our mail but by mailing extra pieces after work just because he wanted to." His good humor and dedication to his work and the school endeared him to all who knew him. (Photo courtesy of Margaret Harrell Hester.)

(Below, Top) Jan King and Charlie White were College Night leaders in 1970 when the Golds produced Gentile on My Mind.

(Below, Bottom) Working on what may have been the longest-titled College Night in history (The Heir Apparent with the Apparent Air or The Prince Was a Stinker or People Who Wear Glass Slippers Should Not Have Babies) are these 1970 Purples: Jim Cole, Garry Mitchell, Hal McIntosh, Joe Taylor, Barbara Olson, Kathy Isley, Eric Olson, and Cathy Crawford. Leaders were Susan Patridge Clark and Jim Cole.

(Right) Scot Copeland appeared as "Lucifer" in the Purple production of College Night 1975, A Mass for Man, written by Stephen Toney and directed by Guy Downey. Leaders for the Purples, who won that year, were Melissa Martin and Larry Snipes.

(Far Right) The 1975 Gold College Night production was The Nick of Time, directed by Zack Godwin and written by Godwin and Greg Daniels. Leaders were Margaret Tucker and David Mathews. In this scene are Janet McLaughlin and John Draper being served by Janet Valerius.

dialog between an "Inquisitor" from a regional accreditation agency and a "Defendant" on the faculty of a small university. The dialog was about credit-hour reports and teaching loads, but Gormley could have been directing these thoughts to any of the issues confronting students, faculty, or administrators.

Inquisitor: *Who's to blame for this mess, would you say?*

Defendant: *Everybody and nobody. There may well be enough blame to go around, but it would have to be distributed among a whole lot of people. Anyway, it seems to me that looking for someone to blame tends to be counterproductive.*

Inquisitor: *Is this a situation that has developed recently?*

Defendant: *No, quite the contrary. We had the same basic problem at least 25 years ago, but adjustments that could be made informally in a small college are much more difficult in a larger and more complex institution. And the problems themselves are becoming more varied, too.*

Dr. Johnson announced his retirement in 1976 to take effect some time in 1977. In an unprecedented move, the Board of Trustees agreed to appoint a committee composed of Board members, faculty, and students to conduct a search for a new president.





Bicentennial Community

The Montevallo campus was designated as a "Bicentennial Community" in 1976 in honor of America's 200th birthday. Hundreds of students, faculty, staff, and guests gathered on Main Quad for a concert, a flag-raising ceremony, and the planting of a commemorative tree. According to a report in the 1976 *Montage*, some students reveled in the spirit of Americana while others bemoaned the commercialization of the country's birthday, asking, "bi-centennial or buy-centennial?"





CHAPTER 7

University of Montevallo

1977-1996

Alabamian, September 7, 1977

A midst all the new faces at UM this year there is one new face which warrants a special welcome. It is Dr. James F. Vickrey, the University of Montevallo's new president.

For those of you who have not yet met Dr. Vickrey, be prepared. He is vastly different from our former president, Dr. Kermit Johnson. Though Dr. Johnson served UM well during his ten-year tenure here, he seemed somewhat remote in dealing with the students. Such is not the case with Dr. Vickrey.

Those of you coming to UM for the first time have picked the best time in the history of this University to come. Those of us in our last years here have the opportunity to have a hand in changing and improving the University. Together we, the students, administration, and faculty can shape UM into something of which not only we but the entire state of Alabama can be proud. Under Dr. Vickrey's superior leadership we can indeed make the University of Montevallo the best "little" university in the state.

"I'm not sure when that man sleeps," the *Alabamian* reported SGA President Kent Keller as saying, "but I know he keeps the rest of us running almost as much as he does, and we don't get any sleep!"

(Opposite) Trustee Al Knight, SGA President Michele Ivey, Student Affairs Vice President Linda Mahan, and President John Stewart break ground for the new student retreat center. The building was named for Dr. Stewart.



(Top) President Jim Vickrey (1977-1988) initiated many of the policies still practiced at Montevallo. He was an avid film scholar and taught classes on that subject at Flowerhill, the president's home.

(Bottom) Dr. Vickrey asked that all the campus streets be named. Most of them are named for the buildings they run by, and some are named for past faculty or staff. Here Bailey Santa Cruz is hanging Vine Street's sign. Vine Street is one of the Montevallo streets that leads onto the campus.

President Vickrey started his administration with action on all fronts — committees appointed to plan his inauguration, trips throughout the state to publicize the University of Montevallo, budget hearings, the adding of several administrators, and a controversial renovation of Flowerhill.

At his inauguration in October 1977, a symposium on the future of the University was held, along with other celebratory events and concerts. This symposium led to the creation of a commission composed of students, faculty, administrators, alumni, and “representatives of political and educational institutions” to study and define the University’s mission and identify its accompanying goals. Dr. Bill Ernest of the College of Education was named chairman. The mission, as formulated by the commission and approved by the Board of Trustees in

August 1978 (reaffirmed in 1996), is:

The mission of the University of Montevallo, unique in higher education in Alabama, is to provide to students from throughout the State an affordable, geographically accessible, “small college” public higher educational experience of high quality with a strong emphasis on undergraduate liberal studies and with professional programs supported by a broad base of arts and sciences, designed for their intellectual and personal growth in the pursuit of meaningful employment and responsible, informed citizenship.

Following the statement of mission were 24 (later reduced to 22) goals addressing the University’s commitment to high quality; its policies regarding academic, athletic, and cultural programs; and a variety of others. Two in particular have had an impact on the future development of the University. One was to “seek increased financial...support,” a part of which would involve development efforts and fund drives to enhance programs. A director of development had been hired under President Johnson’s administration, but Dr. Vickrey increased emphasis in this area. A Foundation Board was established to oversee the operation. Annual fund drives began in 1978, the first one being led by alumni Polly Holliday and Neal Shirley. Its goal was \$250,000, which was reached. (The 1996 goal is \$896,000.) Under the leadership of Bob Riesener, the Fans for Falcons became successful in raising money for athletics. Another of the goals enhanced benefits for faculty by recommending the establishment of faculty and staff development programs. This led eventually to a sabbatical leave policy in 1984.

It seemed as if the new president was bursting with energy and ideas; it was contagious. Policies were scrutinized, sharpened, rewritten, devised, often by the



(Top Left) Students petitioned Dr. Vickrey to hold their May commencement exercises outdoors, and he agreed. This is the 1980 commencement.

(Top Right) To acquaint American students with other cultures, to earn a little money for their projects, and to enjoy good food and good company, international students hold an International Food Festival. When this one was held in 1984-1985, 40 different varieties of dishes were served.

(Above) UM cheerleaders for 1978-1979 were Annie Bulger, Randy West, Renee Barnett, Jonathan Sykes, Davonna Glass, Mike Sudderth, and Carol Turner. (Not pictured is Libby Johnsey.)



(Left) Three antique coal cars were discovered in Shelby County in 1978 by U.S. Steel Co. employees. Research showed that the cars had been abandoned in mines about the time U.S. troops under Gen. Wilson passed through Montevallo near the end of the Civil War in 1865. Professor Justin Fuller examines one of the cars when it was displayed in UM's Carmichael Library. The cars were moved to the Shelby County Historical Society Museum in Columbiana.



(Left) Palmer auditorium was completely done over in 1979-1980 and a new organ was installed. Three days before College Night was to open, the new seats had not arrived, and when they did, they were the wrong color. They were installed nevertheless — just in time — and had to be replaced when the correct ones came.

(Right) The Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance presented its first Alumna of the Year Award to Angie Nazaretian '50, pictured here with Coach Rob Spivery.



Faculty Council at the behest of the president. Not all of the new or revised policies were welcomed, however. Faculty were expected to engage in research and service in addition to their teaching if they wished to earn tenure or promotions; the practice of student evaluation of teachers, so despised during Dr. Caldwell's administration that it was hurriedly dropped, was mandated. Merit raises rather than the customary across-the-board raises became common.

President Vickrey supported women's issues. Soon after his arrival, some women on the faculty and staff received what were called "sex discrimination raises." Women's Week, later Women's Day, was begun in 1979, featuring programs concerning women's issues. Women's athletics began to receive more support, thanks partly to Title IX equal rights provisions but also to Vickrey's commitment. In 1978-1979 women's intercollegiate athletics became a separate division under the direction of Beverly Warren.

Sara Ruth Morgan of the College of Business was appointed assistant to the president for faculty and staff relations, and as such led the development of an affirmative action program. There were earnest efforts to employ minority faculty and to recruit minority students.

Among several endeavors to ensure the high quality of education promised by Montevallo, Vickrey pursued a variety of paths, which included a bill passed by the Alabama Legislature that revised the statute pertaining to the University to include wording from the school's newly articulated mission. Thus, Alabama law, unique to statutes on higher education in the state, mandates the University of Montevallo's commitment to high-quality liberal arts education.

Other indications of this commitment were the chartering of two national honor

societies, Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, and the creation of a scholarship program for high school valedictorians and salutatorians. (These are now offered at several Alabama institutions; Montevallo was the first to do so.) Later in his administration, Dr. Vickrey established the Centennial Scholars program to award scholarships to qualified young people when they reached college age in the school's centennial year of 1996.

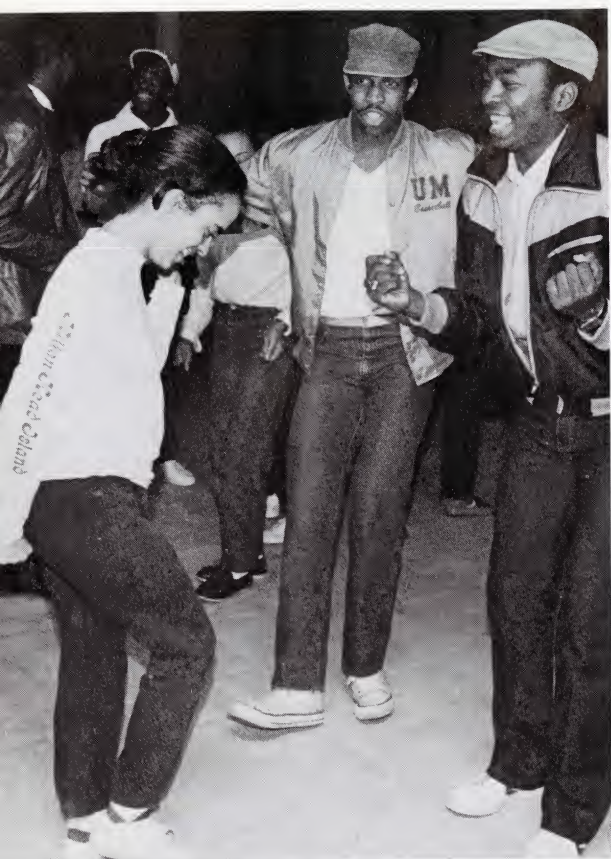
One of the most significant developments to take place during President Vickrey's administration was the development of a core curriculum. In 1980, an intense curriculum study was begun and eminent consultants were hired to steer the University toward a revised curriculum. Earl McGrath, United States commissioner of education under President Harry S. Truman; Arthur Levine, senior fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; and Ernest L. Boyer, commissioner of education under President Jimmy Carter and head of the Carnegie Foundation, were consultants in this project that involved faculty, students, and administrators in a period of extraordinary study and discussion. Led by English professor, Elizabeth Rodgers, a new core curriculum, or general education program, was eventually developed that ensured a basic liberal arts program for all fields of study.

Faculty and administrators were involved in another time-consuming activity — a self-study of all aspects of the institution in preparation for an investigation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to review the status of the University for reaccreditation. Dr. Vickrey requested, and received, permission from the Association to conduct a non-traditional study based on the 24 proposals developed for UM's Mission and Goals. It was a compliment to be granted such a request, because if the Association had not felt that Montevallo was a strong candidate for reaccreditation, it would have insisted on a traditional self-study following the pattern of SACS standards. Under the leadership of Dr. Norman McMillan of the English Department, this sometimes difficult self-study

(Left) Three outstanding actresses appeared in UM's 1977 production of Vanities, directed by John Rude. It was Montevallo's entry in the American College Theatre Festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. Saundra Daniel (far right) won the Irene Ryan award for best actress. Pictured with her are Renee Dunshee (center) and Greta Lambert (left). Lambert is a featured player with the Alabama Shakespeare Festival.

(Right) UM's Lyric Theatre produced The Marriage of Figaro in 1981, featuring Rebecca Luker and Florence King. Today, Luker is a Broadway star. King, a librarian at the University of Georgia, has kept up her singing career in non-profit circles.





(Top Left) The Residence Hall Association sponsored a variety of activities, such as this dance, that added to campus life.



(Top Right) It's Squeal Day! That's when sorority bids go out. It was a happy day in 1982 for one girl, at least.



(Bottom) Students began playing a bizarre game in 1980 — KAOS — Killing As an Organized Sport. It was legal, and strict rules of play were observed. Under the aegis of the SGA's entertainment office, participants drew names of victims and tried to assassinate them with harmless dart guns.

was completed and the Southern Association granted reaccreditation to the University of Montevallo.

In spite of the various activities involving faculty and students, and the energy and dialogue generated by those activities, all was not well.

To begin with, it was money. Dr. Vickrey assumed the presidency of the University of Montevallo at a time when two forces appeared to be working against his ambitions for the school — inflation and formula funding. Everyone was hit by inflation, of course, but faculty became vocal about the president's policy to use a percentage of the money available for salaries as merit raises rather than cost-of-living increases. In spite of an increase in fringe benefits, many felt that in inflationary periods basic salary needs should be met before merit raises were granted; moreover, many distrusted the new methods that were put in place to determine merit. UMEA (University of Montevallo Education Association) was particularly outspoken on this issue. It was also pointed out that most faculty had come to Montevallo because it was primarily a teaching rather than a research institution. And where, they asked, was the money or the release time for research?

As for formula funding, it was a dilemma for Montevallo. The Alabama Commission on Higher Education, established by the Legislature in the 1970s to coordinate programs and budget requests of Alabama's four-year public institutions, used an enrollment-driven formula as one of the means to determine the fiscal needs of each university. In 1978 Dr. Vickrey said that reliance on that formula to determine budgets tended to force schools to try to increase enrollment at the expense of improving instruction. Montevallo's mission, Vickrey pointed out, was to remain relatively small and to offer programs of high quality. Dr. Vickrey's fiscal



(Left) College Night leaders in 1980 had a unique problem. The renovation of the auditorium in Palmer Hall disrupted rehearsals and had everybody wondering if the work would be finished in time. It was. Gold leaders (foreground) were Liz Farrow and Mike Williams; behind them are Purple leaders Karen Kelly and Steven Hitt.

(Above) The 1978 Purple College Night production, The Game Show, written by Darrell Revel (shown at the far right), did not win, but it was a good one.

pleas to ACHE would continue throughout his administration.

One of the president's commitments to quality was to seek or maintain accreditation in as many departments as possible, and that meant a need for more money — money for faculty with doctorates, money to enhance library holdings, and money for equipment or space.

Adding to the financial dilemma — not for the first time nor indeed for the last — was proration. In 1979 Governor Fob James announced a six percent cut in state funds for education. Later, proration was again invoked.

Part of the funding dilemma was eased by raising tuition. In the previous administration, Montevallo's tuition had been the lowest, or near the lowest, of any public institution in Alabama. Some faculty and ad-



Terri Moore's father is helping her move into Peck Hall, UM's newest residence hall, named for long-time campus physician Willena Peck. That's Chris Lott in the background, and the year is 1981, when the hall opened to men and women residents.

ministrators believed that an extremely low tuition did not reflect favorably on the University's commitment to quality. In response to proration, the Board of Trustees raised tuition eleven percent in 1979, and a number of courses were dropped for the summer session. Tuition, and occasionally room and board, continued to be increased — though not each year — throughout the Vickrey administration. There were years, of course, of no proration, and years when the Legislature increased appropriations to higher education, but again the University of Montevallo did not always compare favorably with other institutions as to the percent appropriated.

Very early in President Vickrey's administration, there were questions about

the priorities for spending money. In the spring of 1978, less than a year after he assumed the office, students — emulating their activist colleagues of 1974 and 1975 — called two meetings, Comer I and Comer II, to discuss their concerns. Meeting with the president and other administrators in the auditorium of Comer Hall, they brought up issues that included the increase in the number of administrators, the shortening of the spring semester, the proposal to eliminate partial payment of tuition, and the funds being spent to renovate Flowerhill when conditions in dormitories needed to be improved.

The number of administrators had certainly increased. The University's first academic vice president, Russell Warren, was hired — a move that had been recommended several years earlier. Other positions, particularly in student affairs, were created.

As far as the shortening of the spring semester was concerned, Vickrey explained that the principal reason for doing so was to equalize the length of the semesters. An imbalance had occurred when the academic calendar was changed.

Flowerhill, the president's home, had been built in the 1920s, and although there had been repairs and a certain amount of modernization to the building, there were basic repairs, especially wiring, that were necessary. The Board of Trustees — and Dr. Vickrey — wanted Flowerhill to become once more a gracious and welcoming place for University functions as well as a safe and comfortable dwell-

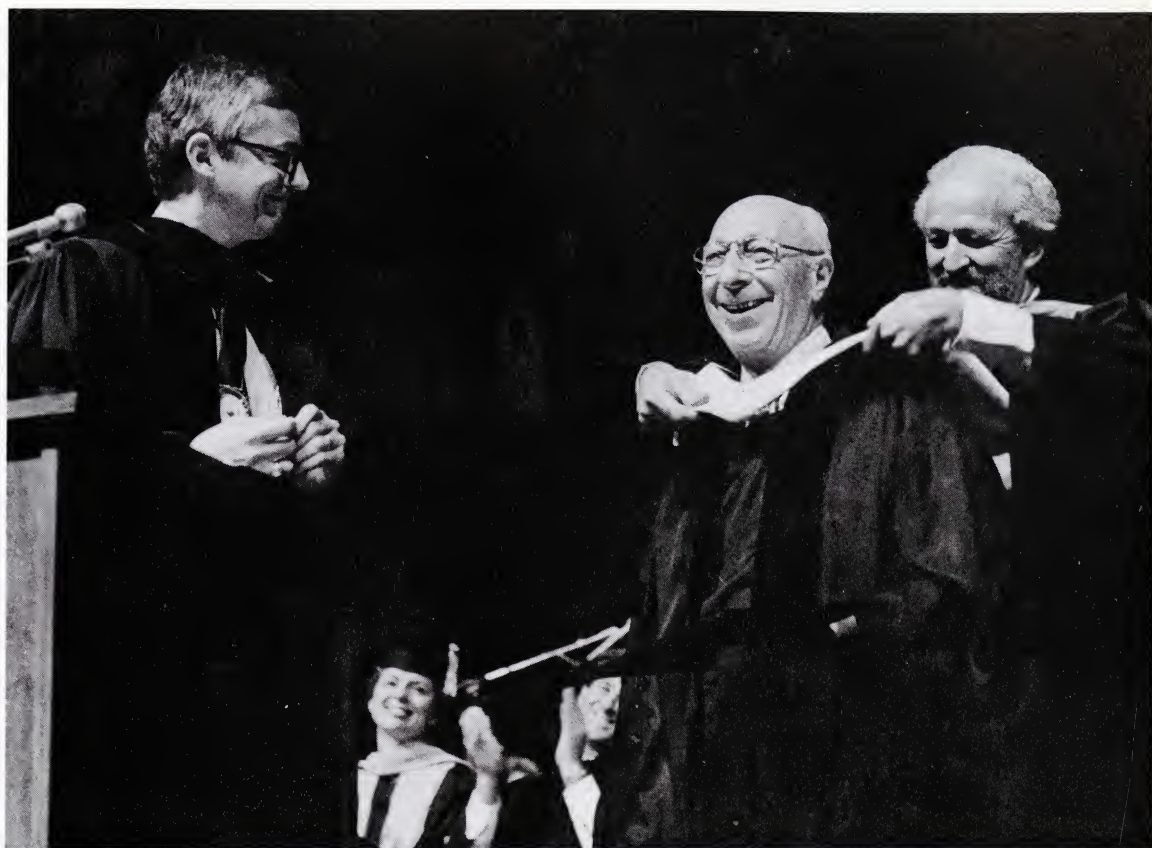
ing, but there continued to be criticisms of Flowerhill expenses for several years.

The problems outlined above may give a picture of unrelieved crises and continuous debate, but there was meaningful progress made during this time, also. Student ACT scores, for example, increased seven years in a row, it was reported in 1985. A new physical plant and Peck Residence Hall were built; Ramsay Hall was converted into a continuing education center; residence halls were renovated; the grand staircase to the lobby of Main, which had been greatly altered, was restored. The Residence Hall Association was established and began a

variety of activities for students. Other programs for students were put into place or strengthened in areas such as academic advising, counseling, job placement, and minority affairs. Fraternities and sororities grew in number.

At Dr. Vickrey's request, the Faculty Council recommended revisions to the policy on the awarding of honorary degrees, which had been restrictive, and the awarding of those degrees was revived. Faculty grievance policies were established.

On the academic front, the Core Curriculum Committee, after four years of study, made its report in 1983, and steps were made to introduce the new general education curriculum to entering students. The University of Montevallo became the first institution in Alabama to qualify for the state's Endowment Trust Fund for Eminent Scholars in 1984-1985. State Senator Paschal P. Vacca's donation of \$600,000 to Montevallo enabled the University to qualify for the state's matching \$400,000 to endow a Chair of Liberal Arts. Instead of making one permanent appointment to the "Vacca Chair," it was decided to offer temporary appointments to visiting scholars in any field affecting the liberal arts. The first year (1987-1988) mathematician Reginald Traylor and composer Norman Dello Joio were the Vacca scholars. Hill House, formerly the demonstration home for home economics students, was designated the Center for Excellence, housing offices and classes for the honors program, academic development, general education, and an



The late Senator Paschal "Pat" Vacca was one of the university's staunchest supporters, in word and in deed. His generous donation enabled UM to qualify for state endowment funds to establish Alabama's first Eminent Scholar's chair. In this photo, President Vickrey looks on as Sanford Colley adds a hood to Mr. Vacca's academic regalia on the occasion of Vacca's receiving an honorary degree from the University of Montevallo.



(Top) Sarah Palmer, a revered English teacher, received accolades when she was the first (with Frank McCoy) to receive the Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award in 1983. She is pictured here with Augusta Lovelady (who was president of the National Alumni Association in 1990-1992) in the English Common Room, which was named in Palmer's honor in 1989.

A committee of faculty members spearheaded a fund-raising campaign to endow a lecture series to honor Dr. Hallie Farmer. Its first lecturer, in 1985, was former secretary of state, Dean Rusk. Here he is being interviewed by Dr. Shirley Jackson and Dr. Jesse Jackson.

apartment for Vacca scholars. Aided by donations from John Harbert, the English Department established the Harbert Writing Center in Comer Hall.

Accreditation in several fields was being pursued. The most ambitious accreditation sought was for the College of Business, and it took several years for that to be accomplished. In 1987 the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) granted that accreditation for undergraduate study. It is rare for an institution the size of Montevallo to attain accreditation from AACSB.

Sports and intercollegiate athletics flourished. Intramural contests among various groups — including sororities and fraternities — were popular. Intercollegiate athletes enjoyed a number of successful seasons. The women's volleyball team ranked seventh in the nation in NAIA standings in 1984 and 1985, and members of the Falcon baseball team under Coach Bob Riesener were conference and district champions.

The campus enjoyed a variety of concerts, lectures, readings, and other entertainments during this period. Mythology scholar Joseph Campbell (as a Dancy lecturer) and author Eudora Welty were at Montevallo in the spring of 1978. Poet Gwendolyn Brooks, playwright Edward Albee, the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, the Peking Opera, and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band were bright spots during the 1980s.

The departments of music and theatre produced a variety of excellent operas, musicals, and plays. A lecture series was established through private donations to honor Dr. Hallie Farmer; former secretary of state, Dean Rusk, was the inaugural lecturer in 1985. The University was involved with an outdoor historical drama, *Brighthope*, staged at Brierfield Ironworks Park.

Through his interest in film, Dr. Vickrey took advantage of a visiting artists' program sponsored by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; as a result, actor George Kennedy, director Daniel Mann, critic Robert Osborne, and cinematographer Allen Daviau visited Montevallo for lectures and discussions. The SGA had an active movie program. Mass communication students began broadcasting news on cable television.

College Night continued to flourish, and a number of entertaining and imaginative productions were enjoyed by large audiences of students, alumni, and friends. In 1988 the Gold production, *Avon Calling*, with music and book by Patrick Evans, was such a success that the Birmingham Opera later staged it. Elite Night, which

had been canceled when Palmer Hall was being renovated, was revived in 1982.

There continued to be problems at the core of the institution, and criticism of the president mounted. There were accusations that only an illusion of openness existed in regard to decision making. Some members of Faculty Council felt there were efforts to camouflage data. Problems were created when a one-time legislative appropriation of \$1,200,000 was budgeted as if it would recur each year. Proration caused the administration to cut back on maintenance personnel, some of whom were nearing retirement age; in 1986-1987, 12 former employees sued, and the University was ordered to pay them \$118,357 in back wages.

Faculty became more vocal in their discontent, which some aired in letters to the *Alabamian* and to Birmingham newspapers. A few were accused of speaking out in class. President Vickrey responded by announcing a code of "faculty behavior," a policy the Faculty Council claimed infringed on their right to freedom of speech.

Questions were raised as to the advisability of spending money on recruitment advertising in national magazines and on a promotional film produced by Hollywood's Joel Douglas (son of Kirk). There were questions about the president's use of Foundation funds. Questions were raised about inequities of faculty salaries; the faculty voted in February 1986 that salary figures be made public. When efforts to do so failed, the UMEA filed suit in April for salary disclosure. Eventually, salary figures were released.

Matters came to a head in 1987. After months of discussion, the Faculty Council called for a vote of no confidence in the president. In a carefully planned process of secret balloting, the faculty did so vote. A committee from the Board of Trustees visited the campus and conducted confidential interviews with faculty members and others in an attempt to determine the gravity of the situation. President Vickrey resigned on March 11, 1988.

The Vickrey administration that had begun with such promise and ambition and energy — and which had seen much growth and progress — ended on a bitter note. The era was complicated by a lack of trust on all sides, by a feeling that the president



(Top) *The 1988 Gold College Night production, Avon Calling, by Patrick Evans, was a hit. It was a cabaret-style revue of the works of Shakespeare.*

(Bottom) *L. Frank McCoy, dean of the College of Fine Arts, came to UM as chairman of the Art Department. In 1983 he (with Professor Sarah Palmer) received the first Outstanding Commitment to Teaching Award. McCoy is in great demand as a lecturer and as an expert on using technology to learn about art.*



(Top) John Stewart — conductor, professor, department chairman, college dean, president from 1988 to 1992 — won deserved respect from students and faculty with his good sense, good humor, and collegiality.

(Bottom) Through its Continuing Education Division, Montevallo has hosted Elderhostel since 1979. Men and women — of a certain maturity — come to UM from all over the U.S. and Canada to go back to college for a week. Elderhostel participants study art, history, literature, and, in this case, theatre. Dr. Charles Harbour is conducting a class whose students don't get grades.

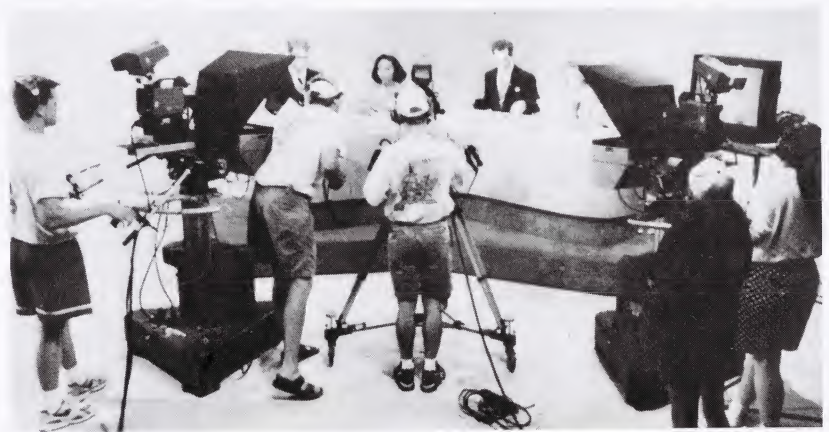
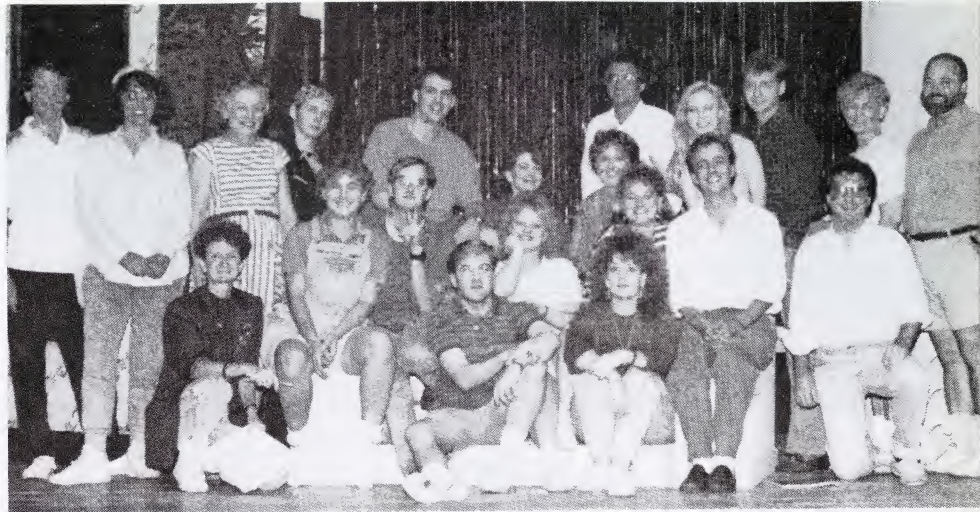
was more interested in form than substance, and by his eventual health problems.

The Board of Trustees, in a move to assuage the general tenor on campus, appointed a well-known Montevallo figure as interim president — Dr. John Stewart, dean of the College of Fine Arts.

When Dr. Stewart addressed his first faculty meeting as president and greeted the faculty with

“Good morning, colleagues,” he received a standing ovation. He accomplished the Board’s desire to restore mutual trust and he renewed the spirit of collegiality that had been temporarily lost.

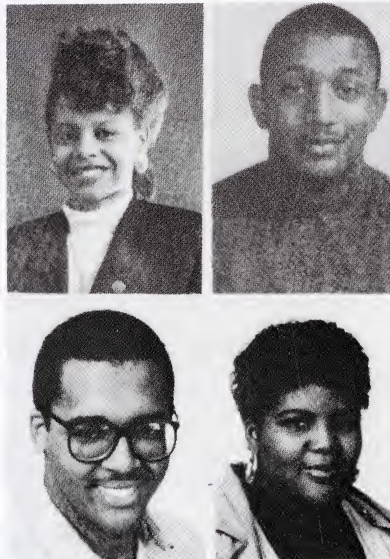
John Stewart knew Montevallo well. He joined the music faculty in the 1960s, became chairman of the department, and was named dean of the College of Fine Arts when it was created. He had assumed other responsibilities, particularly when he served on a steering committee of a self-study in preparation for a reaccreditation visit from the Southern Association. In 1989, heartened by his ability to bring the campus together, the Board made his appointment as president permanent.



(Top Left) Andy Russell, campus photographer at UM from 1981 until his death in 1990, was a much-loved campus figure. His gentle disposition, his professionalism, and his easygoing outlook on life made his presence a joy. He always had his dogs with him, even the one who rode on top of his car. Some called him eccentric because of that dog, but Andy claimed it was the dog who was the eccentric one. Andy's portrait of Main Hall was selected for the cover of Years Rich & Fruitful.

(Top Right) As part of the Alabama Reunion in 1989, Montevallo staged What's it Gonna Be? A College Night retrospective, it was the brain child of Scott Brunner '86, was directed by Eric and Barbara Olson, both of the Class of 1972, and featured former College Night performers singing, dancing, and spouting dialog from past shows. Most of the cast and crew are pictured here. Two of them are featured players: Beverly Brasell '69, kneeling at the far left, and Joe Taylor '70, standing at the far right.

(Bottom) UM's mass communication students broadcast the news.



Before 1990, black students had made a definite place for themselves at Montevallo, but 1990-1991 was a special year. Michele Ivey (top left) was SGA president, D.L. Richardson (top right) was Alabamian editor (and Purple leader in 1992), Mark B. Moore (bottom left) was Montage editor (and Purple leader in 1993), and Tracey Lyons was Tower editor.

During his brief administration, a student retreat (by student request, it was named in his honor), a building for mass communication, and an addition to the George C. Wallace Speech and Hearing Center were constructed.

Other highlights included a reaffirmation in 1990 of the University's accreditation and national recognition when the University of Montevallo was included in Loren Pope's *Looking Beyond the Ivy League* as one of the 200 best "bargains" in higher education. Pope noted that Montevallo has the "advantages of a good private college at a fraction of the cost."

In 1991, Dean Bill Ernest of the College of Education offered a Quality Assurance Promise to school systems employing University of Montevallo graduates as teachers. If a first-year teacher shows a lack of professional or academic competence, the school may request assistance from the College of Education to correct the problem.

Computer capabilities were improved with the opening of a 26-station word processing laboratory in Comer Hall and additional equipment in the computer lab in Morgan Hall.

Continuing fiscal problems plagued the Stewart administration — inadequate



There was standing room only at poet Maya Angelou's performance in Palmer on September 26, 1991. She sang, told stories, read from her poetry, and "touched each person in the captivated audience," it was reported.



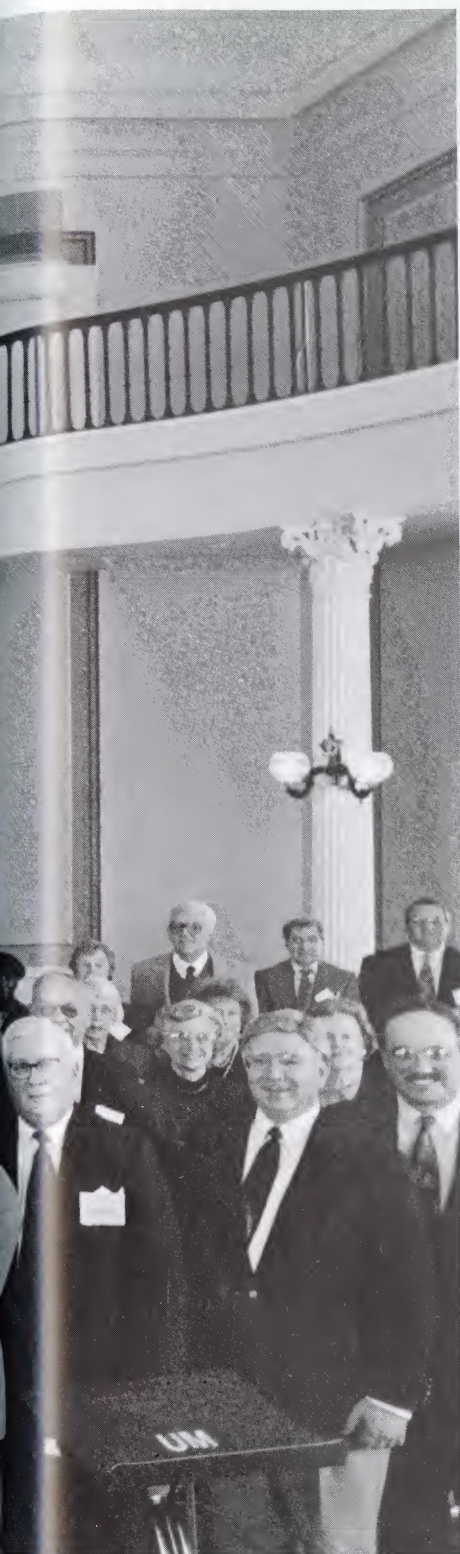
legislative appropriations and proration. Deferred maintenance had to be deferred once more. Faculty and staff were offered retirement incentives to help offset a budget crisis. A Strategic Plan Committee was formed to give attention to cost-saving strategies.

When Dr. Stewart retired in 1992, it could be said that his knowledge of the institution, his sense of collegiality, his trust in the University community, his good sense and good humor, had helped to bring the University together.

After a nationwide search, Robert McChesney was named president of the University of Montevallo in 1992. Dr. McChesney was not new to the institution — he had served as Montevallo's academic vice president and provost since 1991. He shares many of the same concerns and ambitions for the school that past presidents have had: a commitment to high standards and a commitment to liberal learning.

Frank C. "Butch" Ellis, Jr., chair of the University's Board of Trustees, administers the oath of office to Robert M. McChesney, who was invested as UM's thirteenth president during Montevallo's 96th Founders Day Convocation October 8, 1992.





Under his leadership, the University has been accepted as a member of the highly selective Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges, a consortium of 12 institutions that share a commitment to liberal arts education.

He quickly earned the respect of colleagues in higher education in Alabama by being elected to head the Council of Presidents in the Alabama Commission on Higher Education.

A major change has taken place in Montevallo athletics. For some years a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), Montevallo was accepted as a member of Division II of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), and will hold joint membership in both organizations until 1997.

Among the myriad changes Montevallo has experienced over the decades, one that has been notable is technology. Computers in campus offices and laboratories are nothing new, but recent advances have called forth new ways of doing just about everything. Underground fiber-optic cable enables the whole campus to network. The University is linked to Alabama's supercomputer and has access to the Internet. E-mail is quickly outstripping handmail as the easiest way to communicate. The library, which has availed itself of computer technology for some years, has recently computerized its card catalog, and students make use of a variety of material on CD-ROM disks. Departments use CD-ROM

technology as teaching tools; the Art Department, for example, makes extensive use of the Internet and of disks which store images of notable works of art.

Another example of change can be seen in home economics. Since its inception in 1896, the department has always responded to the needs of students and of society by adapting its instructional program. The department's changes in name

(Opposite) The University of Montevallo's first Centennial event was in 1993, to observe the passage of the legislation creating the Alabama Girls Industrial School. There were speeches, a readers theatre, music (the Chorale is shown on the balcony) and a room full of legislators, faculty, staff, alumni, and even a governor.



The “new” music building has been around since 1972, but was not named until 1993, when Maxine Couch Davis, alumna and professor emerita of music, received that signal honor.

have often reflected that response, as it does today. No longer home economics, it is now the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Tom Walker, assistant to the president, was appointed chairman of a task force called the Second Century Commission, which was charged with proposing goals to serve the institution into the next century and to recommend actions to support the University’s mission and those goals. After months of intense study and discussion, the Commission — composed of a broad range of individuals not unlike the group that composed the original Mission and Goals task force in 1977 — made its report, which was approved by the Board of Trustees early in 1996. Briefly, the Commission reaffirmed the University’s mission and identified six goals (to supersede the 22 goals that had been in place) that would serve students, serve society, and secure the success of the goals. The goals are:

Serve Students

1. *The University shall place the needs of its students first, assuring that they receive a broad, superior education centered in the liberal arts and designed to enhance their potential for success as individuals, as professionals,*



(Top) The College of Business has gone international in a variety of ways — in the curriculum with required courses in international business and in special study groups abroad. These students and faculty members are seminar participants at Université Laval in Quebec City, Canada, in 1994. (Photo courtesy of the College of Business and Scott Romanowski.)

(Above) Dr. Robert McGuire is assisting incipient biologists Alfreda Atchison, Les Smitherman, and Paul King.

(Left) In the fall of 1995, Montevallo hosted a Clay Conference which featured the eminent Japanese ceramicist Juroemon Fujita. With him are Dirk Staschke, Brian Baugh, and Chris Kelly. (Photo courtesy of UM Art Department.)



Montevallo's newest sport is soccer for women.

and as citizens who serve and lead our communities and society.

2. The University shall foster a sense of community and involvement characteristic of a small college experience, which promotes and supports student learning as the pre-eminent activity.

Serve Society

3. The University shall seek ways to fulfill its unique mission as Alabama's only public liberal arts institution, providing leadership in Alabama higher education in the areas of learning, accountability, and stewardship.

4. The University shall serve the greater community.

Secure Success

5. The University shall be a learning, adaptive, enabling, and accountable organization to ensure the attainment of the Mission and Goals.

6. The University shall build productive relationships and effectively engage its constituents in support of the Mission and Goals.

The Commission also recommended 10 "action steps" necessary to attain the goals.

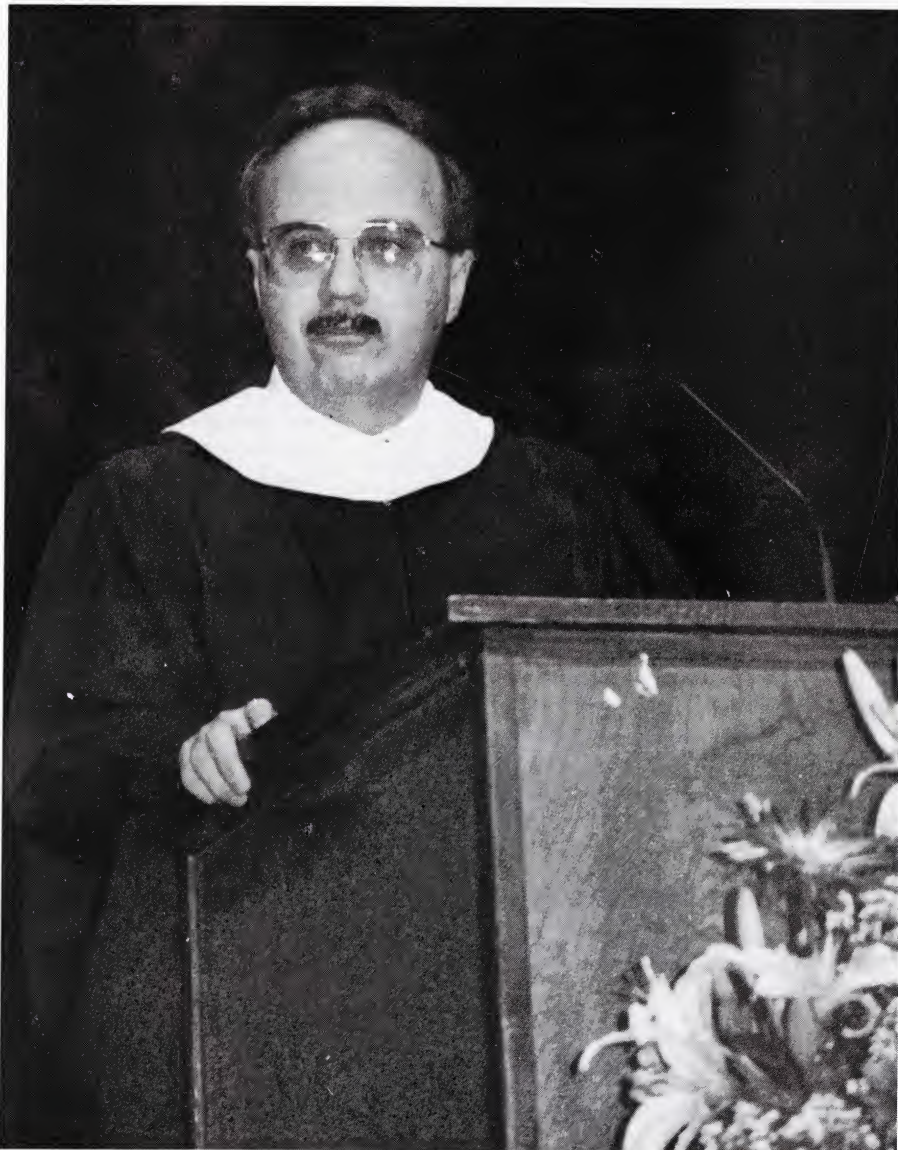
In his charge to the Commission, Dr. McChesney recalled the founders of the

school at Montevallo that was unique in 1896 and continues to be today. He called them — Julia Tutwiler and Solomon Bloch — "visionaries" and "audacious." Vision and audacity have characterized the leaders of Montevallo since that time, from presidents to faculty to students to alumni to mail carriers.

One of Alabama College's visionaries was Franz Edward Lund, who was president of the school when its future seemed to be in doubt. His words to the Board of Trustees have been quoted often, most recently by Tom Walker at Founders Day in 1994 when he accepted President McChesney's charge to the Second Century Commission:

We will preserve our vigor only so long as we are able to encourage a real contact between our history and our present, and combine this wisdom with the nerve to adventure beyond the safeties and sanctities of the past. We need to select new ways, to select from the past what we believe will be helpful. We need to build castles in the air, but with the realities of the present in mind. We need imaginative thinking. For the most degrading poverty we can reach is not financial, or in terms of student enrollment, but poverty of the imagination.

A slogan was adopted for the University's centennial: "The University of Montevallo, 1896-1996: Alabama's College for a New Century." The words point to the past — to those audacious teachers and students anticipating the 20th Century — and to the future — to those visionaries looking toward the 21st Century and to Montevallo's second hundred years. In the words of the *Alma Mater*, "may the years be rich and fruitful."



Student activist of the 1970s, assistant to UM's president in the 1990s, Tom Walker headed the University's Second Century Commission. He reported on the Commission's work, which is expected to serve as a guide to the beginning of the University's second hundred years.

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(Above) Purple writers for College Night 1956 were Mary Frances Tipton '57 (center), Sara Taylor '56 (left), and Wiladele Nixon '56.

(Right) Tipton is shown in Carmichael Library, headquarters for much of the research for Years Rich & Fruitful.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary Frances Tipton '57 has been at Montevallo off and on — mostly on — since she came to Alabama College as a freshman in 1953. In her years as a student, she was an English major and active in college theatre, College Night, and the Student Government Association. She served as SGA treasurer and was SGA president in 1956-57, the first year of coeducation.

“The men must have hated me,” she recalled recently. “Several years after graduation, I was at a party where there was a fellow who was in that first group of men. After we had talked and laughed for a while, he turned to me and said with some amazement, ‘Why, Tip, you’re a very nice person.’”

In 1963 she joined the library staff as periodicals librarian, and subsequently became reference librarian, head of public services, and director. During that period she was active as a member of committees, including Dancy, Hallie Farmer, Faculty Council, and College Night. Students twice dedicated College Night to her. In 1991 she was named Montevallo’s Distinguished Alumna.

She has retired but remains active with volunteer work on campus.



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